STORIES OF A LIFETIME:

The Smith Siblings:
1960-2013

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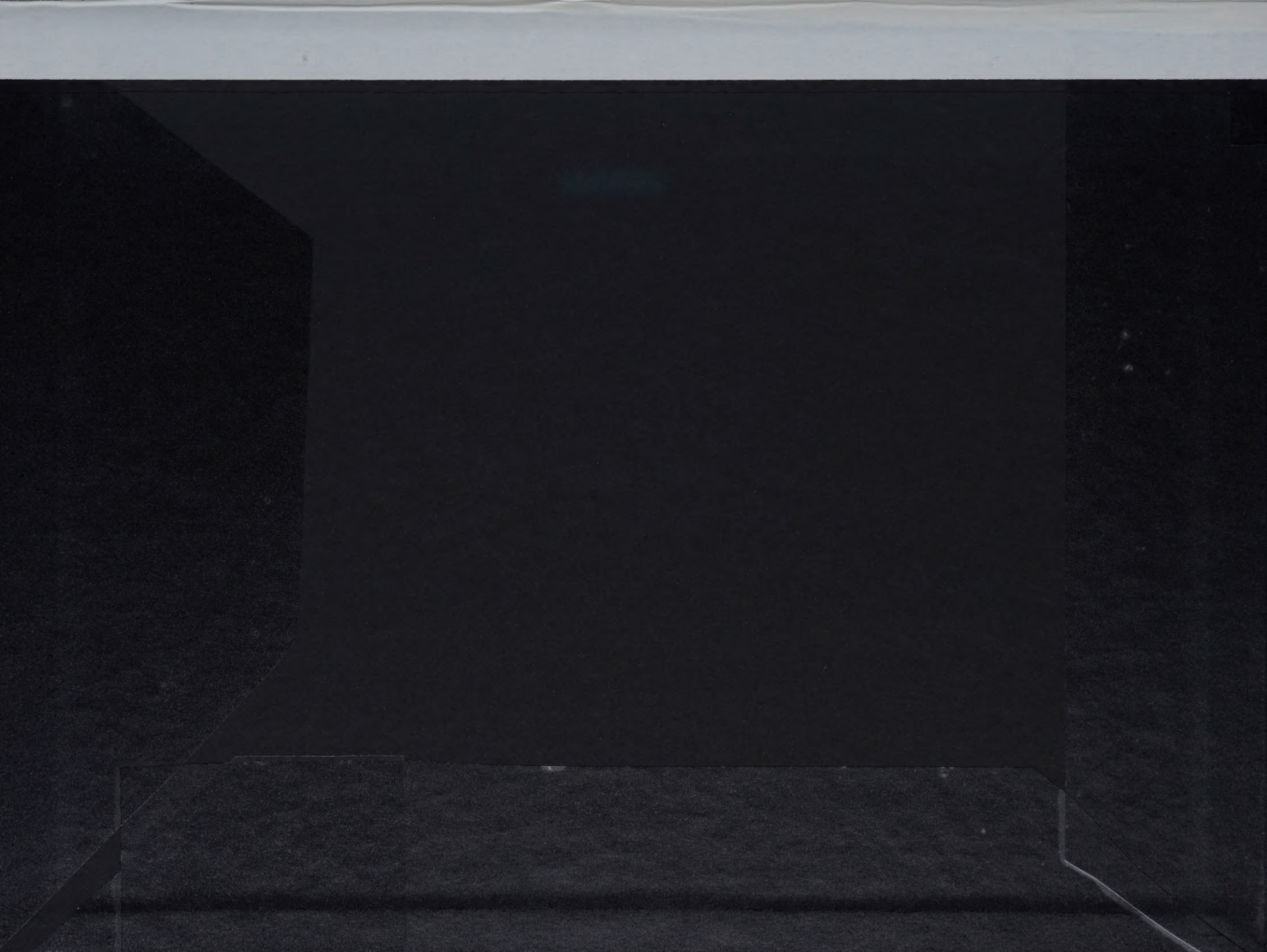

STORIES OF A LIFETIME:

PERSONAL REMEMBRANCES OF MEMBERS OF THE SMITH FAMILY

"OUR FAMILY IS A CIRCLE OF STRENGTH... AND LOVE. WITH EVERY BIRTH AND EVERY UNION, THE CIRCLE GROWS. EVERY JOY SHARED ADDS MORE LOVE. EVERY CRISIS FACED TOGETHER MAKES THE CIRCLE STRONGER."

PUBLISHED: OCTOBER, 2012

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THE SMITH SIBLINGS: 1955

THE SMITH CHILDREN
TOP: LEFT TO RIGHT:
Mary, Marie, Jenny, Linda
BOTTOM: LEFT TO RIGHT:
Don, Dianna, Martha, Ruth
FRONT:
Sandra (Donna is her adopted name)

WE EACH ARE A REFLECTION OF THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE....

The Evening Star
Serving the community since 1871
Auburn, Indiana
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SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2006

Ten siblings reunited after 46 years

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ten siblings from across the nation gathered this spring to grant a request from their sister, Martha Beard of Butler, that they reunite for the first time since they were separated as children 46 years ago. In front, from left, are Dianna Hutson, of Texas, Donald Reed, of Elkhart, Beard, Ruth Butler, of Ohio, Donna Oswalt ,of Michigan and Elaine Thorpe, of California. In back are Jenny Putt, of Michigan, Mary Miller, of Auburn, Marie Longenbaugh, of Pendleton, and Linda Hamman, of Waterloo. Beard has non-Hodgkins lymphoma cancer.

Butler woman granted dying wish

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivr@kpcnews.net

BUTLER — Just weeks ago Martha Beard, who has terminal non-Hodgkins lymphoma cancer, confided to one of her sisters that she had one last wish: to see all nine of her siblings together for the first time in 46 years.

A flurry of phones calls and hurried flight arrangements resulted in all 10 siblings gathering April 30 in DeKalb County where they posed for their first — and sadly, last — complete family photo.

Not long after, Beard, who is married to Ron Beard and has three grown children, took a turn for the worse. The 53-year-old Butler woman — described as having a sweet and calm demeanor and never saying a bad word about anyone — has been battling cancer for 16 years, and was too ill to be interviewed.

Oldest sibling Linda Hamman of Waterloo said Beard is heavily medicated for pain, has trouble speaking and is receiving hospice care at her Butler home.

"She's fighting very valiantly," Hamman said, "but she's been fighting for a long time."

SEE REUNION, PAGE A10

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

1956 or 1957 shows all of the Smith children except the youngest, Elaine. Donna is in front. In the second row, from left, are Donald, Dianna, Martha (no shirt) and Ruth. In back are Mary, Marie, Jenny and Linda.

REUNION: *Family shared musical talents, had emotional bonding*

FROM PAGE A1

A family apart

In 1959, it was a different world. Women rarely worked outside the home. They depended on their husbands to provide the necessary financial means for shelter, food and care — for themselves and for their children. So when Lillian's Smith's husband walked out on her and their 10 children, and it looked as though the DeKalb County family was left to be homeless and hungry, the court system intervened.

The oldest, Hamman, was not involved in the court order because she recently had married. But the rest of the children were split up and placed in five separate homes.

Marie and Mary were raised by a family in Waterloo; Jenny was raised by a family in Fort Wayne and did not see any of her siblings for the next 20 years; Dianna was raised by an Auburn family; Donald and Ruth were raised in Logansport; and Donna and Elaine, 5 and 3 at the time, were raised in another part of Indiana.

Lillian Smith stayed in DeKalb County, eventually remarried and died in October 2004 at the age of 82. She remained close with Hamman and several other children, who contacted their mother after they were grown, but Smith never had the opportunity to meet again with her youngest, Elaine Thorpe, who now lives in California.

Years after she lost track of her siblings, Hamman was shocked when she answered the doorbell and saw a 19-year-old man standing on her doorstep. Donald Reed asked if she was Linda Smith, his sister.

"We both cried," she said.

Tears of sadness, joy

To Hamman it was nothing less than amazing the way everything came together.

"It costs a lot of money to fly across the country, and Dianna was flying in from Texas and Elaine from California," Hamman said. "And it just so happened that Elaine was off work after having minor surgery and was able to schedule the trip immediately."

"It was supposed to happen," Hamman said. "It just all came together."

The nine women and their brother bonded immediately, and the years of separation fell away once they were all together, according to Hamman.

"The connection was so strong and immediate," Hamman said, "and it was so sad to see Elaine, who we had not seen for so long, leave and go back home. We were all crying at one point or another."

The sisters and brother discovered another amazing thing — they are all musically inclined. "We can all sing, but my brother, Donald, who is a pastor at the Elkhart Methodist Church, has the most amazing voice," Hamman said. "Anytime any of us get together, we sing."

Sometimes the siblings are accompanied by their mother's Kawai piano, which sits in a place of honor in Hamman's living room.

On April 30, the Smith family sang together once more. And together, they cried. Ruth, who was especially close to her sister, clung to Beard throughout the day.

The family is closer now, Hamman said.

"Martha brought us all together as a family again," she said. "It's just so sad that it happened because she is dying, but we were all so happy to be together one more time."

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LIVES UNFOLDING.....

"AS HUMAN BEINGS, OUR JOB IN LIFE IS TO HELP PEOPLE REALIZE HOW RARE AND VALUABLE EACH ONE OF US REALLY IS, THAT EACH OF US HAS SOMETHING THAT NO ONE ELSE HAS, OR EVER WILL HAVE, SOMETHING INSIDE THAT IS UNIQUE TO ALL TIME. IT'S OUR JOB TO ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO DISCOVER THAT UNIQUENESS AND TO PROVIDE WAYS OF DEVELOPING ITS EXPRESSION."

QUOTED BY FRED ROGERS,
HOST OF MR. ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD

IN THEIR OWN WORDS....

LINDA
MARIE
MARY
JENNIFER
DIANNA
DON
MARTHA

SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO BE PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH DNA...

PROMOTIONAL SLOGAN FOR
ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW

LINDA, MARIE, JENNY, DIANNA, MARY, DONNA, AND DON
1999

LINDA

LINDA LOU SMITH HAMMAN
BORN: MARCH 1, 1942

LIST YOUR CHILDREN'S NAMES AND BIRTHDAYS. DO YOU HAVE GRANDCHILDREN WHOM YOU WOULD WANT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR HISTORY? IF SO, LIST THEIR NAMES AND BIRTHDATES TOO.

Children: Debra Lori Mccoy 7/23/59
Richard Gale Campbell 12/8/62
Cynthia Lori Rowe 10/27/62
David Harold Campbell 1/3/68 (deceased in 2009)
Daniel Joseph Campbell 9/4/76
Joseph Scott Campbell 6/8/79

Grandchildren: Elizabeth Campbell
Jacob Campbell
Calista Campbell
Brady Campbell 8/30/03
Austin Campbell 9/20/96
Taylor Campbell
Elizabeth Ann Moore 3/3075
Lee Otis Collins 10/17/78
Michael David Collins 8/28/79
Jessie Campbell 6/23/83
Ashlyn Campbell 8/28/02
Adam Campbell 7/6/84
Ken Rowe 9/8/86
Heather L. Campbell 9/9/89
Justin D. Campbell 4/14/91
Christopher David 2010

IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT YOUR BROTHER SISTERS, OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU, YOUR LIKES AND DISLIKES, OR YOUR PERSONALITY?

I am a survivor and enjoy singing and being with people. I like music, church, dancing, being with family. I am quiet and somewhat shy. It takes me awhile to warm up to people.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR BEST QUALITY OR PERSONALITY TRAIT?

I am compassionate, always wanting to help people, a good listener.

WHAT HIGH SCHOOL DID YOU GRADUATE FROM AND IN WHAT YEAR? DID YOU GO ON WITH YOUR EDUCATON? IF SO, WHERE AND WHEN DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE AND WHAT DID YOU STUDY TO BECOME?

I acquired a GED in 1981 from Angola High School, but I went my Freshman and Sophomore years at McIntosh High School in Auburn.

WHERE DO YOU WORK? CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE JOB THAT YOU DO? WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND PASTIMES OR WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I basically worked in nursing. I worked in several nursing homes. I worked in a nursing home when I was fifteen. Then worked for DeKalb Memorial Hospital as a Home Health Care Aide. I am now retired.

I like to play piano, sing, do puzzles, play cards, needlepoint

WHAT IS YOUR MOST VIVID MEMORY OF ANY OR EACH ONE OF YOUR NATURAL SIBLINGS?

I was a second mother to the children. When mom and dad would leave, I would entertain the others by playing spooky music on the piano, playing "Mother May I?," telling them stories, giving them food to identify while they were blindfolded..

Elaine (formerly Cheryl) was "my baby"….mother had problems when she was born, and I gave her her first bath when she was three or four days old. When I saw her at the reunion at Martha's house, I felt such a connection with her….felt bonding in an instant She has a special place in my heart.

Donna (formerly Sandra) had a mild case of polio when she was three or four years old….Mary carted her around all of the time.

I remember one time we couldn't find our brother, Donald. We looked all over for him and called his name. We were all getting scared that perhaps he got hurt. We were all surprised and happy when we found him sleeping at the bottom of a hill. It was a warm day so he just laid down and went to sleep.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST PLEASANT MEMORY OF YOUR LIFE SO FAR? YOU CAN WRITE ABOUT MORE THAN ONE EXPERIENCE IFYOU LIKE…

My marriage to Brooks in November 6, 1982. Also the birth of all my children and being able to see all my siblings again after so many years of being apart.

OF WHAT EVENT, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR EXPERIENCE IN YOUR LIFE ARE YOU THE MOST PROUD?

I'm proud of the fact I went back to school after 24 years and got my diploma, also learned how to drive when I was 38 years old. I'm also proud that I am the oldest of such great sisters, and brother

WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION UPON SEEING THE OTHER SMITH CHILDREN AT MARTHA'S HOME DURINGYOUR REUNION IN MAY, 2006 WHAT ARE THE WORDS THAT YOUR WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE MARTHA?

I was overjoyed to see everyone. I couldn't hardly wait to see my youngest sister, Elaine. Martha was the sweetest, gentlest woman I've ever known. She always told me she loved me whenever we spoke on the phone or when we said good-by.

HOW WOULD YOU WANT MARTHA TO BE RMEMBERED BY YOUR CHILDREN AND BY YOUR GRANDCHILDREN?

As a fighter and never discouraged because of her cancer. Also her great faith in God. And her devotion to her husband and children.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN THE WORLD TODAY? WHAT DOYOU THINK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM FACING THE CHILDREN IN THE WORLD TODAY? HOW WOULD YOU SOLVE ANY OF THESE PROBLEMS?

The unbelief in God, because of it there are many broken homes which effect all involved, generally the children. I believe the world needs to have a closer relationship with God. Then by reading his word, then we would know how to live our lives. We need more devotion to our children and less time trying to make more money.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR CHILDREN OR TO YOUR GRANDCHILDREN?

Live your life, each day giving thanks to God for what you have. Enjoy your mate, spend time with them. Do things with them and your children, even if you would really rather not do it. The days go fast. And you won't regret spending time with them.

WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIFE YOUR FAMILY TO KNOW OR TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOU?

That I was always ready to help them if needed….my love for them. My faith in God.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOUR WOULD WANT OT INCLUDE IN A HISTORY OF YOU AND OF YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR FAMILY?

I want my sisters and brother to know how bad I felt when we were all separated, even tho I was married with a baby of my own. I thought my heart would break. I prayed every night. "God I need so much to see them. I just want to know if they are all alive." God granted my wish. I would want my family to never give up when times are hard. Just keep praying.

Notes for Linda:

1. List your children's names and birthdates: What are your grandchildren's names and birthdates?

Children

Debra Lou McCoy - 7-23-59
Richard Gale Campbell - 12-8-62
Cynthia Lou Rowe - 10-27-64
David Harold Campbell 1-3-68
Daniel Joseph Campbell 9-4-76
Joseph Scott Campbell 6-8-79

Grand Children

Elizabeth Ann Moore - 3-30-75
Lee Otis Collins - 10-17-78
Michael David Collins - 8-28-79
Jessie Campbell - 6-23-83
Ashlyn Campbell - 8-28-02
Adam Campbell - 7-6-84
Key Rowe - 9-8-86
Heather L Campbell 9-8-89
Justin D. Campbell 4-14-91

Elizabeth Campbell - Grandchildren
Jacob Campbell
Alista Campbell
Cody Campbell 8-3-93
Dayton Campbell
Taylor Campbell

2. If you had to describe yourself, what would you want your brother, sisters, or other family members to know about you, your likes and dislikes, or your personality?

I am a survivor and enjoy singing & being with people I like music, church, dancing, being with family. I am quiet & somewhat shy. It takes me awhile to warm up to people

2. What do you think is your best quality or personality trait?

I am compassionate, always wanting to help people. a good listener.

3. What high school did you graduate from and in what year? Did you go on with your education? If so, where and when did you go to college and what did you study to become?

I acquired a G.E.D. in 1981 from Angola High School but I went my Freshman & Southmore year at McIntosh High School in Auburn.

4. Where do you work? Can you describe the job that you do? What are your hobbies and pastimes or what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I basically worked in nursing. I worked in General Nursing Home, I then worked for DeKalb Memorial Hospital as an Home Health care aide. I am now retired

I like to play piano, sing, do puzzles, play cards, needlepoint

5. What is your most vivid memory of any or each one of your natural siblings?

I remember, one time we couldn't find our brother Donald, we looked all over for him, & called his name. We were all getting scared, that perhaps he got hurt. We were all surprised & happy when we found him sleeping at the bottom of a hill. It was a warm day so he just laid down & went to sleep.

6. What is your most pleasant memory of your life so far? You can write about more than one experience if you like.....

my marriage to Brooks on nov 6 1982, also the birth of all my children. and being able to see all my siblings again after so many years of being apart.

7. Of what event, accomplishments, or experience in your life are you the most proud ?

I'm proud of the fact I went back to school after 24 years & got my diploma, also learned how to drive when I was 38 yrs old. I'm also proud that I am the oldest of such great sisters & brother

8. What was your reaction upon seeing the other Smith children at Martha's home during your reunion in May, 2006? What are the words that you would use to describe Martha?

I was overjoyed to see everyone I couldn't hardly wait To see my ~~Y~~ youngest sister Elaine.

Martha was the quietest, gentlest woman I've ever known she always told me loved me. whenever we spoke on the phone or when we said good-by.

How would you want Martha to be remembered by your children and by your grandchildren?.

as a fighter, and never discouraged because of her Cancer. also her great faith in God. and her devotion to her husband & children.

9. What do you think is the most difficult problem in the world today? What do you think is the most difficult problem facing the children in the world today? How would you solve any of these problems?

The unbelief in God, because of it. There are many broken homes what effect all involved, generally the children. I believe the world needs to have a closer relationship with God. Then day reading his word then we would know how to live our lives. we need more devotion to our children & less time trying to make more money.

10. What advice would you give to your children or to your grandchildren?

Live your life, each day giving Thanks to God for what you have. Enjoy your mate, spend time with them. Do things with them & your children, even if you really rather not do it. The days go fast. And you won't regret spending time with them

11. What would you most like your family to know or to remember about you?

That I was always ready to help them if needed, my love for them. my faith in God.

14. Is there anything else that you would want to include in a history of you and of your life for your family?

I want my sisters & brothers to know how bad I felt when we were all separated. even tho I was married, with a baby of my own. I thought my heart would break. I prayed every night. "God need so much to see them; I just want to know if they are all alive." God granted my wish. - I would want my family to never give up when times are hard. Just Love each

MARIE

MARIE D. SMITH LONGENBAUGH
BORN: NOVEMBER 13, 1945

LIST YOUR CHIDLREN'S NAMES AND BIRTHDATES:

Children: Robin (Fitch) Stone 1/21/68
Tamara (Fitch) Bucker 12/11/69
Timothy Fitch 7/8/71
Heather (Fitch) Hertenstein 5/12/76
Courtney (Longenbaugh) Keffer 3/18/81

Grandchildren: Daisy Marie Keffer 8/23/2012

WHAT WERE YOUR ADOPTIVE PARENTS' NAMES? DID YOU HAVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS INYOUR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES? IF SO, LIST THEIR NAMES AND BIRHDATES.

Bud and Jane Brown

Bret Brown 1/19/58
Amy (Brown) Griffin 4/7/54

IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT YOUR BROTHER, SISTERS, OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU, YOUR LKIKES AND DISLIKES, OR YOUR PERSONALITY?

I like to dance and have a good time. I can be moody. I love my family. I dislike people who monopolize conversations or always talk about themselves. I dislike liver and onions. I love going to auctions.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR BEST QUALITY OR PERSONALITY TRAIT?

A caring, loving, family oriented person

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU WERE ADOPTED? WHERE DID YOU LIVE/ WHAT HIGH SCHOOL DID YOU GRADUATE FROM AND IN WHAT YEAR/ DID YOU GO ON WITH YOUR EDUCATION/ IF SO, WHERE AND WHEN DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE AND WHAT DID YOU STUDY TO BECOME?

Age 16 when adopted. We lived in Waterloo, Indiana and went to Waterloo High School. Graduated in 1964

WHERE DO YOU WORK? CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE JOB THAT YOU DO? WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND PASTIMES OR WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I work for Eric Insurances as a claims supervisor in Auto Casualty and Worker's Compensation claims. I like to read, hike, camp, bicycle, some sewing, shop for shoes. I work in the yard in my spare time and spend time with my kids and grandkids.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST VIVID MEMORY OF ANY OR EACH ONE OF YOUR NATURAL SIBLINGS?

I remember Linda, being the oldest, was always the one helping our mother. Mary and I fought a lot and I thought she was the prettiest and very spoiled. Jenny and I played paper dolls and she was the one that took care of the younger ones the most.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST PLEASANT MEMORY OF YOUR LIFE SO FAR? YOU CAN WRITE ABOUT MORE THAN ONE EXPERIENCE IF YOU LIKE...

Raising five children to be loving, caring, responsible people. Finding and marrying Jerry who has been my biggest supporter and helped me through so many difficult situations and is my best friend. The special times spent with our family on vacations, playing games or just being together.

OF WHAT EVENT, ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR EXPERIENCES IN YOUR LIFE ARE YOU THE MOST PROUD?

I didn't graduate from college and was an average student at best in school. I felt I would not go far in the business. Advancing up the corporate ladder was a big achievement for me. Being the first woman elected to the Ministerial Board in our denomination was a great accomplishment and becoming more of an extrovert and less of an introvert.

WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION UPON SEEING THE OTHER SMITH CHILDRENA T MARTHA'S HOME DURING YOUR REUNION IN MAY, 2006? WHAT ARE THE WORDS THAT YOU WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE MARTHA?

None of us had changed since the last time we saw each other. It was a wonderful and sad experience at the same time. It was great to be together again and sad that it took one of us dying in order to see each other.again. Martha was a very sweet and loving person.

HOW WOULD YOU WANT MARTHA TO BE REMEMBERED BY YOUR CHILDREN AND BY YOUR GRANDCHILDREN?

I never heard Martha raise her voice. She was very soft spoken. She was a sweet person and brave. She didn't want anyone to be sad when she died and tried hard to have her final good by as happy as possible.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM I THE WORLD TODAY? WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM FACING THE CHILDREN IN THE WORLD TODAY? HOW WOULD YOU SOLVE ANYOF THESE PROBLEMS?

Our most difficult problem is getting along with others and each other. There are many problems facing our children today. Peer pressure is worse than ever. Violence to one another, drugs, and alcohol. If we could teach love and respect of others to our children and tell them about God. Show these things to them and let them know life is not (all about me). Maybe the world would change.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR **CHILDREN OR TO YOUR GRANDCHILDREN?**

Always try to be the best person you can be.
It is not a crime to fail at something, it is wrong only if you don't strive to do your best.
The most important thing in life is the support and love of your family and love of God.

WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE YOUR FAMILY TO KNOW OR TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOU?

I love every one of my children and grandchildren.
I have tried to be the best mother and best person I could be. I have appreciated all the wonderful things my family has done for me. They are all "top dog" to me.

Notes for Marie:

1. List your children's names and birthdates:

Robin (Fitch) Stone 1-21-68
Tamara (Fitch) Bunker 12-11-69
Timothy Fitch 7-8-71
Heather (Fitch) Hertenstein 5-17-76
Courtney (Longenbaugh) Keffer 3-18-81

What were your adoptive parents' names? Did you have brothers and sisters in your adoptive families? If so, list their names and birthdates.

Bud & Jane Brown
Bret Brown 1-19-58
Amy (Brown) Griffin 7-7-54

2. If you had to describe yourself, what would you want your brother, sisters, or other family members to know about you, your likes and dislikes, or your personality?

I like to dance and have a good time. I can be moody. I love my family. I dislike people who monopolize conversations & always talk about themselves. I dislike liver & onions. I love going to auctions.

3. What do you think is your best quality or personality trait?

a caring, loving, family oriented

4. How old were you when you were adopted? Where did you live? What high school did you graduate from and in what year? Did you go on with your education? If so, where and when did you go to college and what did you study to become?

Age 16 when adopted. We lived in Waterloo, & went to Waterloo High School, graduated in 1964. ~~Secretarial Studies~~

5. Where do you work? Can you describe the job that you do? What are your hobbies and pastimes or what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I work for Erie Insurance as a Claims Supervisor in auto casualty and workers compensation claims. I like to read, hike, camp, bicycle, do some sewing, shop for shoes. I work in the yard in my spare time and spend time with my kids & grandkids.

6. What is your most vivid memory of any or each one of your natural siblings?

I remember Linda, being the oldest, was always the one helping our mother. Mary and I fought a lot and I thought she was the prettiest and boy spoiled. Jenny and I played paperdolls and she was the one that took care of the younger ones the most.

7. What is your most pleasant memory of your life so far? You can write about more than one experience if you like……

Raising five Children to be loving, caring, responsible people. Traveling and marrying Jerry who has been my biggest supporter and helped me through so many difficult situations & is my best friend. The special times spent with our family on vacations, playing games or just being together.

8. Of what event, accomplishments, or experience in your life are you the most proud?

I didn't graduate from College and was an average student at best in school. I felt I would not go far in the business ~~world~~, advancing up the corporate ladder was a big achievement for me. Being the first woman elected to the Ministerial Board in our denomination was a great accomplishment and becoming more of an extrovert & less of an introvert.

9. What was your reaction upon seeing the other Smith children at Martha's home during your reunion in May, 2006? What are the words that you would use to describe Martha?

None of us had changed since the last time we saw each other. It was a wonderful and sad experience at the same time. It was great to be together again and sad that it took Ben's illness in order to see each other.

10. How would you want Martha to be remembered by your children and by your grandchildren?

I never heard Martha Rance ~~[illegible]~~ her voice she was very soft spoken. She was ~~[illegible]~~ a sweet person and trade. She didn't want anyone to be sad when she died and tried hard to have her final Goodbye as happy

11. What do you think is the most difficult problem in the world today? What do you think is the most difficult problem facing the children in the world today? How would you solve any of these problems?

Our most difficult problem is getting along with others and each other. There are many problems facing our children today. Peer pressure is worse than ever. Violence to one another, drugs & alcohol (if we could teach love and respect for others ~~and~~ to our children and tell them about God. Show these things to them and let them know life is not (all about me) maybe the world would change.)

12. What advice would you give to your children or to your grandchildren?

Always try to ~~be~~ the best person you can be. It is not a crime to fail at something, it is wrong only if you don't strive to do your best. The most important thing in life is the support & love of your family and love of God

13. What would you most like your family to know or to remember about you?

I love everyone of my children and grandchildren I have tried to be the best mother and person I could be. I have appreciated all the wonderful things my family has done for me. They are all top Dog to me

14. Is there anything else that you would want to include in a history of you and of your life for your family?

MARY

MARY LOUISE MILLER
BORN: JULY 11, 1947

LIST YOUR CHILDREN'S NAMES AND BIRTHDATES: DO YOU HAVE GRANCHILDREN WHOM YOU WOULD WANT OT INCLUDE IN YOUR STORY? IF SO, LIST THEIR NAMES AND BIRTHDATES TOO.

Children: Cindy 9/6/64
Laura 12/15/66

Grandchildren: Justin 2/13/84
Tangee 3/20/85
Taya 7/10
Nathan 5/7
Chandler 7/27
Chase 2/12
Tristan 627
Ethan 3/30/06

WHAT WERE YOUR ADOPTIVE PARENTS' NAMES AND ANY ADOPTED SIBLINGS WHOSE NAMES YOU WOULD WANT TO INCLUDE?

Bud and Jane Brown

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR BEST QUALITY OR PERSONALITY TRAIT?

My best quality is my smile. Even when I don't feel well, I try to smile. The nurses in the hospital were always amazed that every day, I applied make up and put on fresh pajamas.

I have a bad temper which I try to "mellow out." When someone keeps at me, I'm going to let it out. I am also spunky, but I have a giving heart and try not to hold a grudge. I learned to forgive when I was baptized.

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU WERE ADOPTED? WHERE DID YOU LIVE? WHAT HIGH SCHOOL DID YOU GRADUATE FROM AND IN WHAT YEAR?

I was thirteen when I was adopted. I finished tenth grade in 1964.

WHERE DO YOU WORK? CAN YOU DESCRIBE THEJOB THA TYOU DO? WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND PASTIMES OR WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I worked at the Brown house for ten months. I also cleaned houses for five dollars an hour. I have cleaned for three different cleaning jobs.

In my spare time, I tend my flowers, I enjoy fishing, gardening, inside painting, acrylic painting, and garage saling.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST VIVID MEMORY OF ANY OR EACH ONE OF YOUR NATURAL SIBLINGS?

Linda: a tough cookie…she hung around with mom and helped mom with laundry and meals. Linda showed authority and was the disciplinarian. Linda would play the piano and all of us would sing until mom came home. She would sit us on a stool and we would play "the tasting game."

Marie and I got in trouble for spilling the chamber pot, but I didn't do it…I remember it going down the register. Marie liked to read….quiet and introverted. Marie's children are all very respectable and polite children.

The children would all play with paper dolls in the sunroom and on Sundays, we would visit with Frank and Della Beckwith, our first cousins. There were always lots of kids on Sundays. We would dress up the sick pigs like babies and play with them, and corn cobs were our dolls. We would play on a big hill and tickle each other's bellies.

We didn't think of ourselves as poor. I was always high spirited; I would stick up for the others when food was brought in and the children didn't get any. I washed my mother's feet when she was tired.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN THE WORLD TODAY? WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM FACING THE CHILDREN IN THE WORLD TODAY? HOW WOULD YOU SOLVE ANY OF THESE PROBLEMS?

Peer Pressure: ridicule from other children…it you don't fit in, you are bullied which can destroy a kid if he is told he is not liked.

Drugs and guns also…there is no respect for each other…kids get more pressure from their friends than their parents.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR CHILDREN OR TO YOUR GRANDCHILDREN?

Do the best you always can. Remember that God is there beside you…you're never alone. Be thankful every day.

WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE YOUR FAMILY TO KNOW OR TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOU?

I'm a very giving person. I want my kids to have what I have and make (salsa, corn).

My enjoyment comes over making my kids happy. When they don't show appreciation, I'm discouraged.

JENNIFER

JENNIFER KATHERINE SMITH PUTT
BORN: JUNE 29, 1948

LIST YOUR CHILDREN'S NAMES AND BIRTHDATES: DO YOU HAVE GRANDCHILDREN WHOM YOU WOULD WANT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR STORY? IF SO, LIST THEIR NAMES AND BIRTHDATES TOO.

Children: April Dawn Hurst 4/22/1972
Erin Renee Lane 5/24/1974
Carrie Ann Yurenka 7/7/1977
Chad Eric Randolph Putt 11/29/1979

Grandchildren: A D. Barr 2/6/1999
Brenden Z. Lane 5/18/1998
Aleeah N. Barr 6/22/2000
Bryce J. Lane 3/31/2000
Christian D. Barr 4/11/2002
MaKenna A. Lane 12/17/2003
Andrew R. Putt 4/29/2005
Michael D. Hurst 7/15/2005
Gaven S.J. Lane 10/25/2005
MaKayla Putt 11/26/2009
Brynn
Charlotte 8/30/2009
Delaney 10/13/2010
Step-Grandchildren: Madison Hurst 7/29/1994
Andraya Hurst 5/2/2002

WHAT WERE YOUR ADOPTIVE PARENTS' NAMES AND ANY ADOPTED SIBLINGS WHOSE NAMES YOU WOULD WANT TO INCLUDE?

Adoptive Parents' Names: Edward F. Antcliff
Esther R. Antcliff

I have no adopted siblings.

WHAT DO OU THINK IS YOUR BEST QUALITY OR PERSONALITY TRAIT?

I would like my siblings to know that I'm a caring and compassionate person. I'm a bit quiet and reserved, but I still like to let loose and have fun. I'm uncomfortable when put into new situations, but like being around people and genuinely care about their opinions, and what they have to say. I believe I'm a good listener, I try not to be judgmental. I also want them to know they can trust and count on me in time of need. I will support them in the decisions they make whether I feel it's the right one or not. I like

to share my happiness and joy, along with sadness and disappointments. I dislike people that are too critical, and opinionated and belittle others.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR BEST QUALITY OR PERSONALITY TRAIT?

I think my best quality or personality traits are my good listening skills and caring about others.

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU WERE ADOPTED? WHERE DID YOU LIVE? WHAT HIGH SCHOOL DID YOU GRADUATE FROM AND IN WHAT YEAR? DID YOU GO ON WITH YOUR EDUCATION? IF SO, WHERE AND WHEN DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE AND WHAT DID YOU STUDY TO BECOME?

I graduated from South Side High School in Ft. Wayne, Indiana in the year 1968.

I do not work outside the home. I'm a housewife.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST VIVID MEMORY OF ANY OR EACH ONE OF YOUR NATURAL SIBLINGS?

Some vivid memories of siblings:

Mary was my protector. She was always standing up for me. She didn't let anybody get the best of her. She's that way today. Still my great protector! She's always there for me.

Dianna was my best friend growing up I thought she was so smart. I leaned on her a lot when we were in school together. She was my best friend. She was my security. We did many things together, some not quite so good, but it was our only way to survive during the worst time of our young lives. We had to depend on each other. She still is my best friend.

Don: my sweet brother. He was my pal. We loved and hated each other growing up. We played a lot together, he was quite the adventurous boy. We went on hikes, looking for tadpoles and anything that looked "cool." We shared many new experiences together, some were fun and some not. We knew we had to depend on each other during some very difficult times in our young lives.

Linda was the big sister. She played with us quite a bit. We used to play a game called "Guess what the spice is?" We'd have to close our eyes then she would take a small amount of spice. We'd have to taste it then guess what it was. Some of it was pretty awful, but it was fun. She was always looking out for us.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST PLEASANT MJEMORY OF YOUR LIFE SO FAR? YOU CAN WRITE ABOUT MORE THAN ONE EXPERIENCE IF YOU LIKE...

Pleasant memory – I have so many!

1) Seeing my husband's face when I gave birth to our son after having three daughters in a row. He was so overjoyed.

2) Waking up after heart surgery and seeing my husband's face. So full of love and concern. He's always been my "Knight in Shining Armor."

3) Waiting for our first grandchild to be born. Standing outside the door waiting to hear that first cry, then seeing him for the first time.

4) Seeing all my siblings again after so many years. What a glorious and blessed day!

5) Hearing my grandkids call out "Grandma" when they see me. So full of love and joy. What a blessing!

OF WHAT EVENT, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR EXPERIENCES IN YOUR LIFE ARE YOU THE MOST PROUD?

Event or accomplishment or experience in my life I'm proud of would be, being married to the same man that I've loved since High School days (37 years). Raising four beautiful kids that have good morals and values and are well accomplished.

Become a Stephen Minister a few years ago through our church. To minister to people in a time of need and despair in their lives.

WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION UPON SEEING THE OTHER SMITH CHILDREN AT MARTHA'S HOME DURING YOUR REUNION IN MAY, 2006? WHAT ARE THE WORDS THAT YOU WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE MARTHA?

My reaction upon seeing the other children: My heart was bursting with joy and happiness. I felt like we had finally made it as a family. We were whole again.

I would describe Martha as a brave and courageous person. She was strong and good. She knew she was dying, but she didn't let on. She had such a sweet smile and tender eyes. She had an inviting personality, so soft spoken and quiet, very tender hearted. These are things I'd want my kids to remember about her too as well as my grandchildren.

Her family was very important to her.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN THE WORLD TODAY? WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM FACING THE CHILDREN IN THE WORLD TODAY? HOW WOULD YOU SOLVE ANY OF THESE PROBLEMS?

One of the most difficult problems in the world today is raising our children with good morals and standards. I see our children lacking in making good choices, respecting their parents and leading a good Christian life. I believe our kids are given too much. What they want they tend to get. Life is made too easy for them, they don't have to work for it. I feel that family units have fallen apart.

Both parents are working, they're so overloaded that there just isn't enough time in the day for good quality time with each other or their children. Making money is the main goal in life today. Church going has become second because parents are too tired to get up and go. I think we all need to slow down, put life in the proper perspective. Teach our children what's important. Teach them responsibility, respect, and reach for their goals. Work hard for what they want, don't just give it to them. Guide them and show them what Christianity is about. God needs to be the center of our live, not "money" and how fast we can get it. Material things have become too important. We need to show our children how to slow down, enjoy life, respect others, help each other, and most of all love one another and put God in the center of their lives.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR CHILDREN OR TO YOUR GRANCHILDREN?

Advice to our children: Be aware of the credit card trap. Know what you are signing up for before you sign it. Research it, be knowledgeable. If you can't afford it, don't purchase it. Listen to what your parents have to say. Seek advice. Try to be faithful and honest. If it's too good to be true, then most of the time, it is.

WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKEYOUR FAMILY TO KNOW OR TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOU?

What I'd like my family to know or remember about me: I am a woman of strong faith. I have been my entire life. Without God, I know I wouldn't be who I am today. I believe He had a hand in all that happened to me, because of Him, I have love, a family, a wonderful husband and so much happiness. God and my family are my world.

Good luck,

Jenny

PS thanks for the invite to Dianna's. I won't be able to go. I'm expecting two new grandchildren real soon. I hope to see you soon though.

RD

1. Children's names and birthdates:

April Elaine Hurst - b.d. 4-22-1972

Erin Renee Lane - b.d. 5-24-1974

Carrie Ann Yurenka - b.d. 7-7-1977

Chad Eric Randolph Pitt b.d. 11-29-1979

Grandchildren's names and birthdates:

1. Alexya D. Barr - 2-6-1999

2. Brenden Z. Lane - 5-18-1998

3. Alexah N. Barr - 6-22-2000

4. Bryce J. Lane - 3-31-2000

5. Christian D. Barr - 4-11-2002

6. MaKenna A. Lane - 12-17-2003

7. Andrew R. Pitt - 4-29-2005

8. Gaven S. J. Lane - 10-25-2005

9 Michael D. Hurst - 7-15-2005

Step grandchildren - Madison Hurst - b.d. 7-29-1994

Andrea Hurst - b.d. May 2-2002

Adoptive parents names: Edward F. Antcliff - Esther R. Antcliff

I have no adoptive siblings

2. About myself: I would like my siblings to know that I'm a caring and compassionate person. I'm a bit quiet and reserved, but I still like to let loose and have fun.

RD

I'm uncomfortable when put into new situations, but like being around people and genuinely care about their opinions, and what they have to say. I believe I'm a good listener, I try not to be judgemental. I also want them to know they can trust and count on me in time of need. I will support them in the decisions they make whether I feel it's the right one or not. I like to share my happiness and joy, along with sadness and disappointments. I dislike people that are too critical and opinated and belittle others.

2. I think my best quality or personality trait are my good listening skills and caring about others.

3. I graduated from South Side H.S. in Ft. Wayne, In. in year 1968

4. I do not work ~~~~ outside the home. I'm a housewife

5. Some kind memorys of siblings:

Mary was my protector. She was always standing up for me. She didn't let anybody get the best of her. She's that way today. Still my great protector! She's always there for me.

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RD TR

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6. Pleasant memory - I have so many!

1) Seeing my husbands face when I gave birth to our son, after having three daughters in a row. He was so overjoyed.

2) Waking up after heart surgery and seeing my husbands face so full of love and concern. He's always been my "Knight in Shining Armour"

RD

4.) Waiting for our first grandchild to be born. Standing outside the door waiting to hear that first cry, then seeing him for the first time.

5. Seeing all my siblings again after so many years. What a glorious and blessed day! 5. Hearing my grandkids call out "Grandma" when they see me. So full of love and joy. What a blessing!

7. Event or accomplishment or experience in my life I'm proud of would be, being married to the same man that I've loved since H.S days (37 years). Raising four beautiful kids that have good morales and values and are well accomplished.

Becoming a Stephen Minister a few years ago through our church, to minister to people in a time of need and despair in their lives.

8. My reaction upon seeing the other children: My heart was bursting with joy and happiness. I felt like we had finally made it as a family. We were whole again.

I would describe Martha as a brave and courageous person. She was strong and good. She knew she was dying, but she didn't let on. She had such a sweet smile and tender eyes. She had an inviting personality, so soft spoken and quiet; very tender hearted. These are things I'd want my kids to remember about her too as well as my grandkids. Her family was very important to her.

RD TR

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Both parents are working, they're so overloaded that there just isn't enough time in the day for good quality time with ~~them selves~~ each other or their children. Making money is the main goal in life today. Church going has become second because parents are too tired to get up and go. I think we all need to slow down, put life in the right perspective. Teach our children what's important. Teach them responsibility, respect, and reach for their goals. Work hard for what they want, don't just give it to them. Guide them and show them what Christianity is about. God needs to be the center of our lives, not money and ~~if~~ fast we can get it. Material things have become too important. We need to show our children how to slow down, ~~escape~~ enjoy life, respect others, help each other, and most of all love one another and put God in the center of their lives.

DIANNA

RD TR

10. Advice to our children; Be aware of the credit card trap. Know what you are signing up for before you sign it. Research it, be knowledgable. If you can't afford it, don't purchase it. Listen to what your parents have to say. Seek advice. Try to be faithful and honest. If it's too good to be true, then most of the time, it is).

11. What I'd like my family to know & remember about me: I am a woman of strong faith. I have led my entire life without God I know I wouldn't be who I am today: I believe He had a hand in all that happened to me, because of Him I have love, a family, a wonderful husband and so much happiness. God and my family are my world.

Good Luck,

Jenny

P.S. Thanks for the invite to Dianna's. I won't be able to go. I'm expecting two new grandchildren real soon. I hope to see you soon though

DIANNA SUE STUMP HUTSON
BORN: JULY 13, 1950

LIST YOUR CHILDREN'S NAMES AND BIRTHDATES: WHAT ARE YOUR GRANDCHILDREN'S NAMES AND BIRTHDATES?

Children: Ryan Paul Rhoads: 11/11/72
Michelle Dawn (Rhoads) Bosley: 11/18/73
Angela Mae (Rhoads) Brannan: 12/ 19/ 75
Seth Oliver Hutson: 12/1/88

Grandchildren: Gabriel Thomas Rhoads: 1/14/98
Eliana Dianna Rhoads: 9/27/04
Emily Nicole Brannan: 1/1/02
Kylie Renee Brannaan: 8/15/05
Audrey Lauren Brannan: 8/15/05
Luke Michael Bosley: 1/4/02
Rachel Marie Bosley: 11/24/03

WHAT WERE YOUR ADOPTIVE PARENTS' NAMES AND ANY ADOPTED SIBLINGS WHOSE NAMES YOU WOULD WANT TO INCLUDE.

Harold Stump: Father

Letha Mae Grogg: became my adoptive mother on May 5, 1968. I had another adoptive mother when first adopted in 1960 until I was about 14 years old. I had no mother from age 14 until my adoptive father remarried. I had an adoptive sister who has been more like a biological sister from age 10 to the present. Carolyn Olson (whom I could write a separate story about if I could write.)

IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT YOUR BROTHER, SISTERS, OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU, YOUR LIKES AND DISLIKES, OR YOUR PERSONALITY?

I'd say that I'm pretty independent, stubborn but that I have a caring heart towards others. I enjoy horses and swimming, hiking, reading books, Also enjoy a lot of alone time, pondering about my life and enjoy the blessings God has given me. I don't like to be around people who lie or people who are arrogant and boastful.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR BEST QUALITY OR PERSONALITY TRAIT?

If I could leave a special message to my grandchildren and great-grandchildren, it would be that throughout the struggles and disappointments in my life, throughout it all, God has made me and is still making me a better person, a work in progress. I haven't been successful yet but my best quality would be that I keep trying, attempting to never blame others for who I am but to let God change me into a beautiful flower worthy of everlasting life.

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU WERE ADOPTED? WHERE DID YOU LIVE? WHAT HIGH SCHOOL DID YOU GRADUATE FROM AND IN WHAT YEAR? DID YOU GO ON WITH YOUR EDUCATION? IF SO, WHERE AND WHEN DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE AND WHAT DID YOU STUDY TO BECOME?

I was 10 years old….1960. I lived on Morningstar Road in Auburn, Indiana. Graduated from DeKalb high School in Auburn in 1968.
I went to LPH School from 1969 to 1970 and received an LPN license. Then went onto school in 1992 and became an RN in 1994.

WHERE DO YOU WORK? CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE JOB THAT YOU DO? WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND PASTTIMES OR WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I work at the University Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, also known as a county hospital. I worked there as an LVN from 1987 to 1994 and then as an RN from 1994 until 1999. Then returned to work at the same place in 2010 until present.

I enjoy reading and swimming in my spare time. Enjoy riding horses.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST VIVID MEMORY OF ANY OR EACH ONE OF YOUR NATURAL SIBLINGS?

Linda: twirling other siblings upside down. It scared me so I hid from her
Marie: kept me awake at night because she was afraid of our father
Mary: bossy and sassy
Jenny: sweet, always unselfish. She would give up her portion of food to the younger siblings so they would be happy
Donald: ornery always picking on his sisters. He and I hung out together and often got into trouble because of his ideas
Martha: sweet smile. Other family members always wanted to adopt her
Ruth: my designated sister to look after. She followed me everywhere. We cut out paper dolls from catalogues.

Sandra (Donna): sickly…had polio when she was a baby
Cheryl (Elaine): she was little, can't say I remember much about her. I know I helped our mom give her baths.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST PLEASANT MEMORY OF YOUR LIFE SO FAR? YOU CAN WRITE ABOUT MORE THAN ONE EXPERIENCE IF YOU LIKE....

…Giving birth to my first born child and then to my other three children. They were my lifeline when they were growing up, the best blessing God ever bestowed upon me

…My sister, Carolyn, has been another pleasant experience. Without her in my life, I would not be the decent human being I turned out to be

…Being baptized at age 19

…Grown up with my other 9 siblings the first 10 years of my life…we had tons of fun together…

Our mother sent us outside almost every day...some of our most enjoyable times were spending those days playing outside. We had a barn that had slats far enough apart to climb clear to the top where the hay loft was. We would pile a bunch of hay at the bottom and climb all the way to the top and use a swing rope or not, if we didn't have one and jump into the hay pile below. We also played freeze tag and plain tag, hide and seek, and we would take catalogs and cut paper dolls from them and play paper dolls in the walnut storage bins outside.

We made dolls from flowers and also from corncobs. Often we collected glass soda bottles along a five mile walk to the gas station to turn them in for cash. We would get ice cream bars, gum or candy with our collections. We always looked forward to trailer rides with our dad or just riding with him on the combine.

OF WHAT EVENT, ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR EXPERIENCES IN YOUR LIFE ARE YOU THE MOST RPOUD?

I was proud to have a judge as my father. Very proud of the accomplishments my brother and sisters have made despite the upbringing. Proud of my children and grandchildren and their accomplishments.

Proud of myself for getting a college education. Proud of my sister Carolyn and all the accomplishments she has made despite many hurdles she had to undergo.

WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION UPON SEEING THE OTHER SMITH CHILDREN AT MARTHA'S HOME DURING YOUR REUNION IN MAY, 2006? WHAT ARE THE WORDS THAT YOU WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE MARTHA?

Martha or Marty as we called her was very sweet as was her whole family. It was an emotional day seeing and visiting the others that were there. So many different stories and it was fun reminiscing.

HOW WOULD YOU WANT MARTHA TO BE REMEMBERED BY YOUR CHILDREN AND BY YOUR GRANDCHILDREN?

Very kind, Christian woman who was committed to her marriage and committed to raising her children to love God and to be successful in whatever life issues are set before them.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN THE WORLD TODAY? WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM FACING THE CHILDREN IN THE WORLD TODAY? HOW WOULD YOU SOLVE ANY OF THESE PROBLEMS?

Most of our problems today are because we have lost the family values we once had. If parents would take rearing their children a highest priority in their lives, raising them with high moral standards and look to God for guidance, many of the world's problems would get resolved. Parents should look at their children as a blessing and not a curse that takes away from their own selfish desires.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TOYOUR CHILDREN OR TO YOUR GRANDCHILDREN?

Raise your children to love the Lord – love each other and let your children see what a loving relationship is suppose to be like. Parents' examples are so valuable in a child's eyes.

WHAT WOULD MOST LIKE YOUR FAMLY TO KNOW OR TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOU?

No matter the struggles life brings your way, remember to always try to uplift and encourage others. Remember that I will never be perfect but have tried to have a willing heart to be molded into a better person. Never give up on yourself. Have always been grateful for what God has given me. Remember my greatest blessing from God was each of them.

Dianna

Notes for [redacted]:

1. List your children's names and birthdates: Do you have grandchildren whom you would want to include in your story? If so, list their names and birthdates too.

Children:
Ryan Paul Rhoads 11-11-72
Michelle Dawn Bosley (Rhoads) 11-18-73
Angela Mae (Rhoads) Brannan 12-19-75
Seth Olivier Hutton 12-1-88

Grandchildren:
Gabriel Thomas Rhoads 1-14-98
Elnane Dianna Rhoads 9-27-04
Emily Nicole Brannan 1-1-02
Kylie Renee Brannan 8-15-05
Audrey Lorene Brannan 8-15-05
Luke Michael Bosley 1-4-02
Rachel Marie Bosley 11-24-03

2. What were your adoptive parents' names and any adopted siblings whose names you would want to include.

Harold Stump - Father
Letha Mae Grogg - became my adoptive mother May 5, 1968. ~~Just~~ ~~prior to~~ my I had another adoptive mother when first adopted in 1960 until I was about 14 yrs old. I had no mothers from age 14 until my adoptive father remarried - I had an adoptive sister who has been more like a biological sister fr. age 10 to the present - Carolyn Olsen (whom I could write a separate story about if I could write)

3. If you had to describe yourself, what would you want your brother, sisters, or other family members to know about you, your likes and dislikes, or your personality?

I'd say that I'm pretty independent, Stubborn but that I have a caring heart towards others. I enjoy horses & swimming, hiking, reading books. Also enjoy a lot of alone time, pondering about my life & enjoy the blessings God has given me. I don't like to be around people who lie or people who are arrogant & boastful.

4. What do you think is your best quality or personality trait?

If I could leave a special message to my grandchildren & great grandchildren it would be that throughout the struggles & disappointments in my life, throughout it all God has made me & is still making me a better person, a work in progress. I haven't been successful yet but my best quality would be that I keep trying, attempting to never blame others for who I am but to let God refine me into a beautiful flower worthy of everlasting life

5. How old were you when you were adopted? Where did you live? What high school did you graduate from and in what year? Did you go on with your education? If so, where and when did you go to college and what did you study to become?

I was 10 ½ yrs. old 1960. I lived on Morning Star Rd in Auburn, Indiana. Graduated from DeKalb High School in Auburn in 1968.
I went to LPN School from 1969 to 1970 & received an LPN License. Then went onto school in 1992 & became an RN in 1994

6. Where do you work? Can you describe the job that you do? What are your hobbies and pastimes or what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I work at the University Hospital in San Antonio, TX, also knowns as County Hospital- I worked there as an LVN from 1987 to 1994 & then as an RN from 1994 until 1999. Then returned to work at the same place in 2010 until present.
I enjoy reading & swimming in my spare time. Enjoy riding horses

7. What is your most vivid memory of any or each one of your natural siblings?

Linda- twirling other siblings upside down - it scared me so I hid from her
Marie- kept me awake at night because she was afraid of a father
Mary- Bossy & Sassy
Jenny- Sweet, always unselfish- she would give up her portion of food to the younger siblings so they would be happy.
Donald- Ornary always picking on his sisters- He & I hung out together & often got into trouble because of his ideas
Martha- sweet smile- other family members always wanted to adopt her.
Ruth- My designated sister to look after- She followed me every where

See More on back →

8. What is your most pleasant memory of your life so far? You can write about more than one experience if you like.....

- Giving birth to my 1st born child & then to my other 3 children. They were my life line when they were growing up, the best blessing God ever bestowed upon me.
- My sister Carolyn has been another pleasant experience, without her in my life I would not be the decent human being I turned out to be
- Being baptized at age 19
- Growing up with my other 9 siblings the first 10 years of my life - we had tons of fun together. → See back

9. Of what event, accomplishments or experiences in your life are you the most proud?

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Proud of myself for getting a college education
Proud of my sister Carolyn & all the accomplishments she has made despite many hurdles she had to undergo

10. What was your reaction upon seeing the other Smith children at Martha's home during your reunion in May, 2006? What are the words that you would use to describe Martha?

Martha or Marty as we called her was very sweet as was her whole family. It was an emotional day seeing & visiting the others that were there. So many different stories & it was fun reminiscing

11. How would you want Martha to be remembered by your children and by your grandchildren? Very kind Christian woman who was committed to her marriage & committed to raising her children to Love God & to be successful in whatever life issues is set before them.

Our mother sent us outside ~~to~~ almost everyday - some of our most enjoyable times were spending ~~thoat~~ those days playing outside we had a barn that had slats far enough apart to climb eleva to the top where the hay loft was - we would pile a bun of hay at the bottom & climb all the way to the top & use a swing rope or not if we didn't have one & jump into the hay pile below. We also played freeze tag & plain tag, hide & seek & we would take catalogs & cut paper dolls from then & play paper dolls in the walnut Storage bins outside.

We made dolls from flowers & also from corncobs. Often we collected glass soda bottles along a 5 mi. walk to the gas station to turn them in for cash. We would get ice cream bars, gum or candy with our collection

We always looked forward to trailer rides with our dad or just riding with him on the combine.

cont. #7

Sandra (Donna) Sickly - had polio when she was a baby
Cheryl (Elaine) she was little, can't say I remember much about her - I know I helped our mom give her baths.

12. What do you think is the most difficult problem in the world today? What do you think is the most difficult problem facing the children in the world today? How would you solve any of these problems?

Most of our problems today are because we have lost the family values we once had. If parents would take rearing their children as highest priority in their lives, raising them with high moral Standards & look to God for guidance many of the worlds problems would get resolved. Parents should look at their children as a blessing & not a curse that takes away from their own selfish desires.

13. What advice would you give to your children or to your grandchildren?

Raise your children to love the Lord - love each other & let your children see what a loving relationship is suppose to be like - Parents examples are so valuable in a childs eyes.

14. What would you most like your family to know or to remember about you?

No matter the struggles life brings your way, remember to always try to uplift & encourage others. Remember that I will never be perfect but have tried to have a willing heart to be molded into a better person, Never give up on yourself. Have always been grateful for what God has given me. Remember my greatest blessings from God was each of them

15. Is there anything else that you would want to include in a history of you and of your life for your family?

Yes, would like to include my growing up years with my Sister Carolyn & the fun times we had with Glen & Nancy The plays, the games, ping pong, baseball, Playing out & now in the boat - playing monopoly for hours on end with Carolyn.

→

How my sister Carolyn took me under her wings immediately & embraced me as her sister with loving arms. How we ate mounds of ice cream every night & fried pizza with peaches & cinnimon. How we made flowers & leis with Kleenex & hula skirts with binder twine. How we laid out in the sun on top of aluminum foil to get a tan. What great swimmers & divers we were. The adventure of taking the metal boat down the creek with our dog Snitzie. Our lives with Philipine & the struggles we had with our parents. How our father was, a strong disciplinarian who took on his family ~~with~~ as a great responsibility & his animate desire for higher education past high school.

Mention Letha, what a kind, loving mother she was & how she took on two older children. How she loved her grandchildren Ryan, Michelle, Angela, & Seth.

DONALD

DONALD EUGENE SMITH REED
BORN: OCTOBER 5, 1951

LIST YOUR CHILDREN'S NAMES AND BIRTHDATES: DO YOU HAVE GRANDCHILDREN WHOM YOU WOULD WANT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR STORY? IF SO LIST THEIR NAMES AND BIRTHDATES TOO.

Children: Cheryl Renee Reed Loer 2/4/79
Grandson: Christian Lane Loer 3/1/2005

WHAT WERE YOUR ADOPTIVE PARENTS' NAMES AND ANY ADOPTED SIBLINGS WHOSE NAMES YOU WOULD WANT TO INCLUDE?

Wilbur Dean Reed
Audra Delight Champ Reed

Adopted with Ruth Ann Smith

IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT YOUR BROTHER, SISTERS, OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU, YOUR LIKES AND DISLIKES, OR YOUR PERSONALITY?

Only brother out of 10 kids/not spoiled as a child regardless of what the sisters say/Christian/United Methodist ordained minister/love to sing/full-blooded Republican/feel displaced because should have born in the South/enjoy reading/enjoy cars/had over 100 in my life/enjoy riding my Honda Goldwing/admire my wife/enjoy traveling/cruising/been on 13/REALLY enjoy that which keeps me out of the office/fun/finicky/always worrying about others/like only two kinds of pie – hot or cold!

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR BEST QUALITY OR PERSONALITY TRAIT?

My best quality or personality trait is taking care of others.

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU WERE ADOPTED? WHERE DID YOU LIVE? WHAT HIGH SCHOOL DID YOU GRADUATE FROM AND IN WHAT YEAR? DID YOU GO ON WITH YOUR EDUCATION? IF SO, WHERE AND WHEN DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE AND WHAT DID YOU STUDY TO BECOME?

I was 9 years old when adopted. I lived on a farm in Fulton County, Indiana halfway between Rochester and Logansport. I graduated from Caston Educational Center in

Fulton, Indiana in 1970. I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 1993 from Indiana University. I received my Masters of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

WHERE DO YOU WORK? CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE JOB THAT YOU DO? WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND PASTIMES OR WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I am an ordained elder and a pastor with the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist denomination serving a church in Elkhart, Indiana. I marry and bury, preach and teach, and administer the sacraments, as well as serve as the administrative officer of the church. I give comfort and seek to win souls for Christ.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST VIVID MEMORY OF ANY OR EACH ONE OF YOUR NATURAL SIBLINGS?

Memories—(I assume this means when we were kids):

Linda – oldest and married at a young age.

Marie and Mary – when they were sent to White's Institute and we visited them, they convinced me to ask some boy for cigarettes and I got in trouble

Jennifer – We were the closest as siblings. Most vivid memory was during the day we were adopted, she was the last one left and had no place to go. I pleaded with my new adoptive parents to say goodbye to her, and then begged them to take her too. They declined and this made me very sad, but this actually turned out the best for her.

Dianna – once we were playing and she convinced me to let the air out of our Dad's tractor tires. Our Mom warned us to quit because he would be mad. We tried to hide from him when he got home by hiding up a cherry tree. It didn't work!

Martha – always was smaller and quiet.

Ruth – was quiet before we were adopted. After we were adopted, we put away any sibling rivalry because we decided we needed to look out for each other to be able to have things go smoothly at the Reeds.

Donna and Elaine – were just babies. I remember seeing them cold, hungry, and crying when we lived in Huntington and I went out to find some wood for the wood burning stove to start a fire to warm the house up.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST PLEASANT MEMORY OF YOUR LIFE SO FAR? YOU CAN WRITE ABOUT MORE THAN ONE EXPERIENCE IF YOU LIKE....

My two most pleasant memories as a child was sitting on the counter and helping our mother wash out the cream separator while she was singing me a song and the time when I was waiting for the girls to return on the school bus and fell asleep in the tall grass, and no one could find me for many hours. My most pleasant memories of my life thus far have been: 1) when I started looking for my sisters and showed up at Linda's house around midnight and when I told her who I was – the look on her face was shock 2) The first time we all were reunited 3) the day I was told I had a daughter to adopt 4) the trips to parts of the world I have taken with my wife, Vicki

OF WHAT EVENT, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR EXPERIENCES IN YOUR LIFE ARE YOU THE MOST PROUD?

I am the most proud of graduating from college and seminary as a returning adult student after struggling through elementary through high school. I am most proud of my grandson, Christian, and my step-grandsons, Samuel and Paul. I am also proud (fulfilled) about my ministry of 21 years. I am also fulfilled by my relationship with my wife.

WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION UPON SEEING THE OTHER SMITH CHILDREN AT MARTHA'S HOME DURING YOUR REUNION IN MAY, 2006? WHAT ARE THE WORDS THAT YOU WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE MARTHA?

My reaction in seeing all of the Smith children during the 2006 reunion was mixed. It was bittersweet knowing we were all together, but sad knowing that it took Martha's situation to make it happen

I would use these words to describe Martha: very much at peace about her situation/ she encouraged others to be strong and not to be sad.

HOW WOULD YOU WANT MARTHA TO BE REMEMBERED BY YOUR CHILDREN AND BY YOUR GRANDCHILDREN?

This question does not pertain to my personal situation.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN THE WORLD TODAY? WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM FACING THE CHILDREN IN THE WORLD TODAY? HOW WOULD YOU SOLVE ANY OF THESE PROBLEMS?

The most difficult problem today is that we are willing to tolerate what we are not willing to stand against. This has rapidly created a culture with greatly degraded values and beliefs. This sifts down to the children. To solve this, I would encourage all of us who

believe in what is right and good to be a voice before it is too late and we are not the America we once knew.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR CHILDREN OR TO YOUR GRANDCHILDREN?

I would advise my children to put God first and not look to the world to solve their problems and be responsible for your own actions and don't blame others. There is no problem that is too big to work through with Christ at the center.

WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE YOUR FAMILY TO KNOW OR TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOU?

I would want my family to remember me as a man of honesty and integrity, that I have treated others with respect, and that I tried to live out my beliefs.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO INCLUDE IN A HISTORY OF YOU AND OF YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR FAMILY?

No

July 21, 2009

Dear Carolyn,

I am sorry that it has taken me such a long time to answer these questions, but it is finally accomplished. I hope that you can make sense of the comments. Thanks for working on this project and if you need anything else, please let me know. I do have some reservations about the proposed title of this book. Is it possible to brainstorm some others to consider? I really am not a Don Juan and my sisters would have to be from the South to be Dixie Chicks!

Thanks again,

Don

1. Cheryl Renee Reed Loer 2/4/1979
   Grandson: Christian Lane Loer 3/1/2005

2. Wilbur Dean Reed
   Audra Delight Champ Reed
   Adopted with Ruth Ann Smith

3. Only brother out of 10 kids/ not spoiled as a child regardless of what the sisters say/Christian/United Methodist ordained minister/love to sing/full-blooded Republican/feel displaced because should have born in the South/enjoy reading /enjoy cars/had over 100 in my life/enjoy riding my Honda Goldwing/admire my wife/enjoy traveling/cruising/been on 13/REALLY enjoy that which keeps me out of the office/fun/finicky/always worrying about others/like only two kinds of pie—hot or cold!

4. My best quality or personality trait is taking care of others.

5. I was 9 years old when adopted. I lived on a farm in Fulton County, IN halfway between Rochester and Logansport. I graduated from Caston Educational Center in Fulton, IN in 1970. I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 1973 from Indiana University. I received my Masters of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

6. I am an ordained elder and a pastor with the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist denomination serving a church in Elkhart, IN. I marry and bury, preach and teach, and administer the sacraments, as well as serve as the administrative officer of the church. I give comfort and seek to win souls for Christ.

In my spare time I read, ride my motorcycle, and travel.

7. Memories (I assume this means when we were kids):
   Linda- oldest and married at a young age.

   Marie and Mary- when they were sent to White's Institute and we visited them, they convinced me to ask some boy for cigarettes and I got in trouble.

   Jennifer- we were the closest as siblings. Most vivid memory was during the day we were adopted, she was the last one left and had no place to go. I pleaded with my new adoptive parents to say goodbye to her, and then begged them to take her too. They declined and this made me very sad, but this actually turned out the best for her.

   Diana- once we were playing and she convinced me to let the air out of our Dad's tractor tires. Our Mom warned us to quit because he would be mad. We tried to hide from him when he got by hiding up a cherry tree. It didn't work!

   Martha- always was smaller and quiet.

Ruth- was quiet before we were adopted. After we were adopted, we put away any sibling rivalry because we decided we needed to look out for each other to be able to have things go smoothly at the Reeds.

Donna and Elaine- were just babies. I remember seeing them cold, hungry, and crying when we lived in Huntington and I went out to find some wood for the wood burning stove to start a fire to warm the house up.

8. My two most pleasant memories a child was sitting on the counter and helping our mother wash out the cream separator while she was singing me a song and the time when I was waiting for the girls to return on the school bus and fell sleep in the tall grass, and no one could find me for many hours. My most pleasant memories of my life thus far have been: 1) when I started looking for my sisters and showed up at Linda's house around midnight and when I told her who I was—the look on her face was shock 2) The first time we all were reunited 3) the day I was told I had a daughter to adopt 4) the trips to parts o the world I have taken with my wife Vicki

9. I am the most proud of graduating from college and seminary as a returning adult student after struggling through elementary through high school. I am most proud of my grandson Christian and my step-grandsons Samuel and Paul. I am also proud (fulfilled) about my ministry of 21 years. I am also fulfilled by my relationship with my wife.

10. My reaction in seeing all of the Smith children during the 2006 reunion was mixed. It was bittersweet knowing we were all together, but sad knowing that it took Martha's situation to make it happen.
I would use these words to describe Martha: very much at peace about her situation/she encouraged others to be strong and not to be sad

11. This question does not pertain to my personal situation.

12. The most difficult problem today is that we are willing to tolerate what are we are not willing to stand against. This has rapidly created a culture with greatly degraded values and beliefs. This sifts down to the children. To solve this, I would encourage all of us who believe in what is right and good to be a voice before it is too late and we are not the America we once knew.

13. I would advise my children to put God first and not look to the world to solve their problems and be responsible for your own actions and don't blame others. There is no problem that is too big to work through with Christ at the center.

14. I would want my family to remember me as a man of honesty and integrity, that I have treated others with respect, and that I tried to live out my beliefs.

15. No

MARTHA

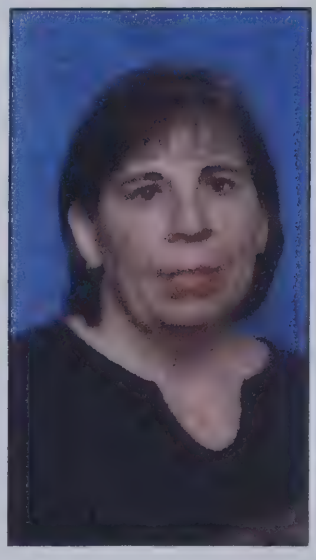
Obituaries

Martha J. Beard

(July 16, 1953 - June 28, 2006)

Guest Book | Sign Guest Book | Send Private Condolences

View Video Tribute



Martha J. Beard, age 52, of rural Butler, Indiana, died Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana, after an extended illness. She was a graduate of Eastside High School and was employed as a teachers assistant at the Children First Center in Auburn, Indiana from 1989-97 and at Lexington Elementary School in Lexington, South Carolina. She was a member of the Coburn Corners Church of Christ near St. Joe, Indiana.

Martha J. Beard was born July 16, 1953 in DeKalb County, Indiana, the daughter of Harold and Alice (Hart) Kagey. She married Ronald D. Beard on June 23, 1973 at Coburn Corners, Indiana and he survives.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her children, Laura Beard, of Auburn, Indiana, Tim (Tara) Beard, of Lexington, South Carolina, Alicia (Michael) Graves, of Auburn, Indiana and three grandchildren, T.J. Beard, Katie and Ethan Graves. Also surviving are a brother, Donald (Vicki) Reed, of South Bend, Indiana, nine sisters, Anne Reas, of Columbus, Ohio, Linda Hammon, of Waterloo, Indiana, Marie (Jerry) Logenbaugh, of Pendleton, Indiana, Mary (Ron) Miller, of Auburn, Indiana, , Jennifer, (Randy) Putt, of Vicksburg, Michigan, Dianna (John) Huttson, of Boerne Texas, Ruth (Wayne) Butler, of Bucyrus, Ohio, Donna Oswalt, of Mishewauka, Indiana and Elaine Thorpe, of Citrus Heights, California. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother Richard Kagey.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Sunday, July 2, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. at Coburn Corners Church of Christ with Pastor Dave Turpen officiating. Interment will be in Maple Grove Cemetery in Edgerton, Ohio. There will be no public visitation.

Memorials in the name of Martha J. Beard may be given to Riley Childrens Hospital or St. Jude Childrens Hospital.

Tributes

She never seemed to be discouraged

Martha Beard inspired many as she coped with cancer

BY BILL GISEL
billg@kpcnews.net

BUTLER — Martha Beard of rural Butler encouraged a lot of people.

She encouraged her family, who watched her valiant, 16-year struggle against cancer; she encouraged children at the Children First Center in Auburn, where she was a classroom paraprofessional of pre-school children; and she encouraged many strangers, who read a newspaper article about the reunion of her family that had been separated for 46 years.

Mrs. Beard, who was 52, died June 28.

The reunion brought together Mrs. Beard and her nine siblings, who were separated as children and had not been together as a family since that separation.

"She was one of the gentlest women I have ever known," said Mrs. Beard's oldest sister, Linda Hamman of Waterloo. "I admired her, and when I am bothered about problems of my own, I think about her, and then I feel like I can face anything that can come upon me."

About three months before her death, Hamman said, Mrs. Beard and her husband, Ron, auctioned the home and furniture they had shared. They traveled to Tennessee to visit their son, Hamman said, and planned to go to Niagara Falls together after that.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ten siblings from across the nation gathered this spring to grant a request from their sister, Martha Beard of Butler, that they reunite for the first time since they were separated as children 46 years ago. Mrs. Beard died June 28 from cancer. In front, from left, are Dianna Hutson of Texas, Donald Reed of Elkhart, Mrs. Beard, Ruth Butler of Ohio, Donna Oswalt of Michigan and Elaine Thorpe of California. In back are Jenny Putt of Michigan, Mary Miller of Auburn, Marie Longenbaugh of Pendleton, and Linda Hamman of Waterloo.

"But, she couldn't, she was just not able," Hamman said. Mrs. Beard and her husband did manage a last motorcycle trip, however, just two weeks before her death.

"She was able to make sure her husband got a new home and new furniture, and that he would have a place," Hamman said. The Beards even went to make her final arrangements, which Hamman said was a time of laughter and sharing.

Asked how she could laugh at such a time, Mrs. Beard responded, "The Lord is going to take me home — you are the ones who are going to suffer," Hamman said.

Betsy Rodecap-Kurtz, one of Mrs. Beard's co-workers at Children First Center, marveled at her attitude.

"She never had a day when she appeared discouraged. Her attitude the whole time (of her illness) was, 'God will take care of me,'" Rodecap-Kurtz said.

Beth Keller, another co-worker, said Mrs. Beard "loved life, her kids and grandkids, and loved being around them." Keller said Mrs. Beard's work carried over to her own children and grandchildren, and she once was seen by another co-worker driving with a load of her offspring.

"They were singing, and she was doing the motions that went with the song, just as if she was at school," Keller said.

"She was a good friend," Keller added.

Hamman said Mrs. Beard's surviving siblings will "keep her memory alive" for the sake of the grandchildren. She was a beautiful woman.

I can never remember a time that mom was never there, even when she was going through her treatments. She would be at whatever event even when the doctors had told her not to be out in public, much less in a packed gym room of parents all cheering their children on.
Even when mom was really mad, I mean really mad, you knew that she loved you no matter what you had done.
In the worst of it all she always had a smile, a hug, and words of courage for whatever it was that we were going through, she never really let us see as kids just how much she was going through, she said it was her job as a mom to keep us from seeing how much she hurt.
She always made each one of us feel like we were her favorite kid, in reality I think that we all were in our own special way.
She always said that family was the only important thing in life…. Because without it you are on our own and who wants that?
We are talking about a woman who hid food from the nurses and doctors because she wanted to come home to her family so bad after her stem cell cleaning. They told her then that she was one of few that ever left the hospital that early after such a traumatic procedure to ones body.
Mama always put everyone before her as most moms do.

Even when things got really hard at the end she still had a joke, or would laugh at something in any other situation would be funny, and always always had a smile to brighten anyone's day. Mama at the end was more worried about what would happen to all of us after she was gone than she ever was about dying, or going home as she would say. As they wheeled her off to her last surgery she told us all that no matter what the out come she loved us and not to forget it. I think then that she knew that she would never see us again in physical form.

This is all I had time to write down because of work but here is my email address if you think that you might need more from me, or our family.

Fisherbeardgang@yahoo.com

Laura Beard
Tim Beard

THE HUMAN EQUATION....

"WHAT LIES BEHIND US AND WHAT LIES BEFORE US ARE TINY MATTERS TO WHAT LIES WITHIN US."

QUOTED BY RALPH WALDO EMERSON

ABOUT FORGIVENESS....
LINDA HAMMAN

ABOUT SELF RELIANCE....
MARIE LONGENBAUGH

ABOUT COURAGE....
MARY MILLER

ABOUT LOVE....
JENNIFER PUTT

ABOUT CHARACTER....
DIANNA HUTSON

ABOUT LEADERSHIP....
DONALD REED

ABOUT FAITH....
MARTHA BEARD

STANDING: JENNY, DIANNA, AND MARY
SEATED: DONNA, LINDA, AND DONALD
2008

...NONE OF US CAN DO GREAT THINGS; WE CAN ONLY DO SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE...

EXCERPTED FROM
MOTHER TERESA'S
WRITINGS.....

ABOUT FORGIVENESS...

LINDA HAMMAN

ABOUT FORGIVENESS....

"You adopted my sister, Dianna, and now all of us are going to adopt you!!!"

Words of Wisdom from Linda Hamman to Carolyn Olson in 2006.

The author of **The Hobbit**, J. R. Tolkien, once penned, "You can only come to the morning through the shadows." Truer words cannot be found about grief and its dark path toward hope and healing. And eventually, by again living "outside of yourself," life once again becomes a treasure....Linda Hamman's Forgiving Nature and her Charity to all who know her are tributes to her patient understanding and her acceptance of others, just the way they are. Her eyes look inside of you and mask her own disenchantments, disappointments, and sorrows as she ministers to the hurts of those she loves as a mother, as a sister, and as a friend.

Linda, as the oldest of the ten Smith children, has gladly assumed the special responsibility in monitoring the needs of each of her siblings with her careful, watchful gaze and in preserving the history of each of them through pictures and stories. As such, Linda is the "glue" that holds the Smith family together as a unit, and it is Linda who has the most memories of the past lives of her siblings and of their biological relatives. Linda maintains the family albums and also steadfastly is available for all of the current lingering cares and the concerns that her siblings faced after they left the home of the biological parents and also for all of the challenges with which they are confronted in their present lives. She records the new additions to each of the families of her brother and sisters, updates their current addresses, and contacts family members when circumstances dictate the need to gather as a family. Each of her siblings trusts her love for them and feels the warmth of her concern for them radiate from within her being.

The true quality of Mercy shines within Linda in every aspect of her life. As the only sibling who had established her own home and family when her brother and sisters were adopted, Linda's sorrow at the absence of her siblings was profound and long-lasting; until she was reunited with Don in 1970, Linda's fervent prayer for years was just "to know they are OK." Linda's gratitude in being reconnected with her siblings has reinforced her faith as she believes that her prayers have been answered "triplefold." While mourning for her own loss as her siblings were growing into adulthood in adoptive homes, Linda never succumbed to lifelong self-pity, resentment, or anger...instead she has forgiven and has extended charity and love to each person who has touched the lives of her biological family in the intervening years until she and they were together as a unit at their First Family Reunion in forty-six years in May of 2006..

In spite of having overcome the ill effects past relationships, the death of son, David, and the painful course of treatment for breast cancer in 2011, Linda maintains her sensitivity toward the plights of others, a robust sense of humor, a joyful zest for life, and an active lifestyle in these "Golden Years" of retirement as a former nursing assistant. She is involved in singing in a choral group and in playing cards at her local senior citizens' center, and she even has entertained the prospect of dating although her partner of several years, John, recently passed away.

As a professional caregiver, Linda has known the distress of families who watch and who wait for a peaceful passing of their loved ones, and she know personally the devastating paths of the terminally ill as she lovingly nursed her husband, Brooks, through his cancer treatments for many months until he passed away in 2002. To provide Brooks and herself with a distraction from the anxieties of his disease, Linda and Brooks traveled to Texas in a camper to visit with Sister Dianna Hutson in 2000 where they delighted in sharing the joys of daily living with Dianna and her family for several weeks. Linda's charitable works were also shared with her siblings at a gathering when she related the story of a melancholy and mean-spirited patient, Margaret. Each day, Linda told Margaret that she "needed a hug" when Margaret was particularly demeaning and demanding, and the two women embraced until one day their bonds were forged into a lasting friendship. Linda's friend, John, also was the beneficiary of Linda's tender devotion as she cared for his ailments and offered him compassionate companionship for as long as she knew him.

Linda is the embodiment of the truest qualities of Divine Forgiveness and of Christian Charity as she continues to extend her welcoming hand of friendship, companionship, and love to those within her family and to those whom she has yet to meet. To all, Linda's Constant Charity is a glow that embraces by refreshing, renewing, and rewarding our spirits…each new day becoming a cherished treasure that she has yet to open as she continues to soothe troubled hearts with her wise understanding, gentle assurance, practiced patience, and heart-felt forgiveness.

ABOUT SELF RELIANCE...

MARIE LONGENBAUGH

ABOUT SELF RELIANCE....

"It is not a crime to fail at something; it is wrong only if you don't strive to do your best."

Words of Wisdom from Marie Longenbaugh excerpted from the personal interview that she completed for this book.

Marie always has tried to be "the best person you can" be as she wrote two years ago in her observations about her philosophy of life and the gratitude that she feels for the successes that she has earned through her own efforts and her own hard work. As an insurance claims supervisor in auto casualty and worker's compensation claims, Marie has "advanced up the corporate ladder" through her winsome personality, her attention to detail, and her native intelligence. Her sister, Mary, characterized Marie as an individual who was studious, as a person who loved to read, and as a woman who quietly handled her own stresses and anxieties as a child and as an adult by keeping her own counsel without burdening others. Marie's determination to take responsibility for her own actions, both during her youth and during her adulthood, has exemplified that "nothing is as strong as gentleness, and nothing is as gentle as real strength."

Through her own efforts, Marie was also the first woman elected to the Ministerial Board in her church denomination, a tribute to her outstanding personal qualities which engender trust and loyalty among those with whom she worships and among those who recognize her Christian Character. Perhaps the most outstanding part of these public accomplishments in both her professional and in her religious affiliation, however, is the attitude which achieved them. Marie's outward confidence is the visible proof of her enormous internal pillars of resolve and of dedication upon which her family has always depended. In raising five children and being a stepmother to three sons, Marie has relied upon her Christian Faith, upon teaching "love and respect for others," and upon the comforting strength of her husband, Jerry, to nurture and to sustain their four daughters and four sons during their lives. Most importantly, Marie has modeled for her children the lessons that they now live by as adults through being loving, forgiving, and honest in her interactions with others.

Although the responsibilities of earning a living while raising a family can be overwhelming, Marie has always also been present for her biological siblings whenever the need arose. Mary observed that "Marie has always been there for me....", and no truer devotion to her family can be noted than Marie's commitment to take Mary to Cleveland Clinic during the past two years when her appointments require a seven hour drive from Marie's Indianapolis home to the Ohio Hospital. In addition, Marie visits Mary frequently to help complete the heavy housecleaning chores in Mary's home, including window washing and painting tasks, and she always enthusiastically joins her other siblings for reunions, even recently joining Mary, Dianna, Jenny, and Linda only

when she could comfortably leave her daughter, Courtney, who was experiencing pregnancy-related health problems.

In the midst of her own children's and grandchildren's schedules, Marie has always, without desire for praise or recognition, "plowed the hard ground" so that her siblings could rest easier while facing their own personal challenges. Her steely resolve continues to be quietly masked by her grace, by her graciousness, and by her sense of humor as she pleasantly offers her generous and wise counsel to others. Marie has always tried to do the "right thing" purely because it is the right thing to do and not because she wants credit or praise for ensuring that others' passages through life are peaceful and unencumbered.

If the respect that one receives is based on the respect that one gives to others, Marie has earned the respect with which she is greeted each day of her life by those who know her. As a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend, and church elder, Marie's lifelong legacy has been to illustrate in her daily life the power of the human spirit to determine and to change one's destiny no matter how difficult one's own private circumstances have been. Through the energy that courses through her veins and the strength of her inner core, Marie's self reliance and personal integrity inspire and instruct us all to see ourselves not as victims but as messengers of hope and of healing in this world, a mission which she wholeheartedly, without fanfare, continues to embrace.

ABOUT COURAGE...

MARY MILLER

ABOUT COURAGE...

"A Guardian Angel has always been around us to protect us...."

Words of Wisdom from Mary Miller during a conversation in August, 2012 as she spoke about her biological siblings.

Mary has always had the courage to face life and to accept life just as it is; she has inspired her friends and her family by always playing "the hand that she was dealt" in this world with her smiling face, her daunting spirit, and her irrepressible spunkiness. These traits are remarkable in anyone, but in Mary's life, these qualities shine ever so brightly as she has faced four life-threatening heart surgeries and resulting critical complications since the early 1990's...she has miraculously prevailed in each medical procedure with an everlasting belief that "God is touching my heart, and it's getting stronger."

Mary's first encounter with her Guardian Angels occurred several days after her second heart surgery in Indianapolis in the late 1990's when her nurses attempted to remove a breathing tube from her throat. The procedure was unsuccessful as a slight tearing occurred in her stitches that were protecting her newly installed mitral valve in her heart, and as a result, Mary's blood pressure and vital signs plummeted. As the medical personnel waited for the rupture to clot, Mary envisioned Three Angels encircling her hospital bed, all of whom were holding hands and smiling. With an overwhelming sense of peace and love, Mary felt the warmth and the glow of their protectiveness, and she knew that all would be fine. The familiar face of her husband, Ron's, Grandma Hallett was also beside her, urging her to "Hang On..." When the crisis finally ended, Mary was visited by her pastor, and she told him that she was "never afraid," and Mary's energized spirit sustained her as she talked with her hospital roommate throughout that long night following her visit from the Angels who watched over her.

Mary's courage, however, was never more in evidence than throughout her ordeal in November and December of 2009 when she had pancreatitis; she was hospitalized for three months as she battled the surgical abrading of that organ every other day while her other organs were shutting down and her body fought to heal itself. Although Mary remained comatose throughout the three month hospital stay, she remembered hearing songs, seeing Christmas ornaments, and trying mightily to "wake up." However, her most vivid recollection while being semi-conscious was a vision of sinking in a "black hole" and of trying to "pull myself out." As she struggled to survive, Mary continually prayed to the Lord to not "take me away....I'm not ready to say goodbye." In spite of the uncertainty of her condition and her stark images of fighting for her life, Mary's soaring spirit never succumbed to despair or to fear, and "I was bound and determined that I was not going to die."

As of this writing, Mary has undergone another open heart surgery in January, 2012 from which she is still recuperating. As always, her ready smile and engaging personality belie the pain and the discomfort of her paricentises procedures which she endures each month when her excess water weight reaches critical levels. Throughout the travails of her medical issues in 2011 and 2012, guests to Mary and Ron's home continue to bask in the warmth of her engaging personality as they are enchanted by Mary's calm demeanor, by her positive outlook on all situations, and by her refusal to be consumed by her own fragile health....Mary always looks lovely, her face glowing with freshly-applied makeup and her petite figure hugged with flattering clothing, and her busy days remain peaceful with her summer routine of caring for her grandchildren, cleaning her home, weeding her flowers, canning corn, making salsa, drawing and painting songbirds in vivid, colorful acrylic paints, and cooking Ron's meals. Mary's charm and optimism toward herself and toward others are contagious as one always feels better about life and comforted after an inspiring visit with Mary.

Mary Miller well understands the Jewish Proverb which states that "Light Is Not Recognized Except Through Darkness." As the cascading wells of dimness threatened to engulf and to smother her in times of trial and trouble, she emerged victorious due to her Faith and due to her Fortitude. Mary remains the most courageous person that most people will ever know....the light from her indomitable spirit is a beacon for her family, for her friends, and for those she meets along her journey in this life, the night scattered in the glow of Mary transforming and abiding shining, brown eyes and in the protective gazes of her Guardian Angels.

ABOUT LOVE...

JENNIFER PUTT

ABOUT LOVE.....

"So this is my little girl...."

Words of Wisdom from Edward Antcliff, Jennifer Antcliff Putt's adopted father...

On the day that Jennifer and her other nine siblings were taken from their biological mother's home, Jenny and Dianna were tasked by their grandparents to prepare the younger children for the trip to the county courthouse; this daunting request entailed giving Donald, Ruth Ann, Martha, Donna (Sandra), and Elaine (Cheryl) a good "scrubbing," a difficult endeavor given the meager facilities for maintaining cleanliness in their rented home. Jenny and the other six children were soon delivered to the hallway outside of the DeKalb Circuit Court Room with no knowledge of the events that were about to ensue. Without warning or preparation, they were seated on an uncomfortable wooden bench where their prospective adoptive parents were waiting to "whisk away" their chosen child to a new home and a new life. Upon seeing her siblings "scooped up" only to disappear one-by-one with no chance to say "good-by," Jenny soon found herself sitting alone on the rigid bench with no prospective parents in sight.

Fortunately, a court house employee saw Jenny's unsettling situation and called his daughter who lived in Fort Wayne. The daughter immediately thought of Ed and Esther Antcliff as she knew that the childless couple had long wanted a family. When Esther received the call informing her of the little girl's plight, she immediately responded, "Oh Yes, We'll Take Her....", and she drove to Auburn to get her lovely daughter. Although Ed was not home for several days after Jenny's arrival due to a work-related trip out-of-town, Jenny heard Esther jokingly mention that he would probably "send us both out" as Ed had yet to meet his long-awaited child. When Ed finally entered their home, Jenny, who was fearful of men, ran into the bathroom and locked the door. After several anxious moments, Jenny was persuaded to unlock the door and come into the hallway whereupon Ed hugged her and said, "So This Is My Little Girl...." With patient, unconditional love from the moment that they saw her, Ed and Esther had no concern about how "smart" Jenny was, what Jenny "looked like," or what Jenny had ever done....without any hesitation, they cherished her for the remainder of their lives with unwavering devotion. Ed and Esther's total love and grateful acceptance of others, just as God created them, have been shining beacons as Jenny and her husband, Randy, nurture their own children, April, Erin, Kari, and Chad, and their fourteen grandchildren.

Although after her adoption Jenny initially wanted to "escape" and try to make arrangements to find her siblings, her plans were discovered by Esther who asked her about the phone calls that Jenny had made to rejoin her family. Eventually, learning to live without fear and learning to trust were life experiences that Jenny absorbed, and she embraced her New Beginning with Ed and Esther. A memory that is particularly poignant for Jenny is the first time that she called Esther, "Mom...." During a luncheon that Esther was having for her lady friends, Jenny introduced her visiting girl friend to

each of the adult women who were present. When Jenny paused at Esther's place to greet her, she announced to her young companion, "This is my Mom…." When the two girls left the room, Jenny's mother cried, and her lady friends, who knew how much Jenny's words had meant to Esther, cried with her.

The circle of Ed and Esther's love continued to embrace Jenny throughout her life as she, in turn, unconditionally cared for their needs until they passed away, Esther in 1988 and Ed in 1994. Until her adoptive dad, Ed, died, Jenny visited him every day that she was able to do so, and without fail, Ed would greet Jenny by saying, "Hello, Esther….," his connection with his beloved wife and cherished daughter foremost in his memory.

As her life has unfolded, Jenny's many "Moments of Grace" continue to celebrate her essential goodness and purity of heart. Her patient interactions with her biological siblings reveal a gentle soul who tenderly attended to her sister, Mary, as Mary recuperated from her most recent heart surgery in 2012, even driving with Sister Dianna to Cleveland Clinic where they stayed by Mary's bedside for ten days as she slowly healed, playing cards with her and bringing her milkshakes when they could. Since Mary's return to her hometown to recuperate in the Spring of 2012, Jenny has twice driven alone from her home in Cincinnati to Mary's residence; with Marie by her side, the girls have removed wallpaper, have applied new paint to Mary's bedroom, and have washed the windows and the walls throughout Mary's house, all the more noteworthy as Jenny herself has undergone major heart surgery which sometimes compromises her own energy levels. The good works that are products of Jenny's immense capacity to love were also apparent when Jenny, on her hands and knees, scraped white paint from the floors of Ken and Carolyn Olson's remodeled barn loft in September of 2011, never once complaining about the Spartan conditions in which she was working. Jenny's compassionate heart extends especially to her children and to her grandchildren without hesitation as she assists with caring for the wee ones, most particularly Granddaughter Brynn whose life threatening medical issues sapped Jenny physically and emotionally before her latest trip to visit with Sister Mary.

Jenny's love has "bearth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things…. (1st Corinthians, Chapter 13.) With every breath that she takes, Jenny's own life is a testament to the enduring and the transformative power of love in this world as she continues to offer to everyone who knows her the warm glow of her friendship and of her sweet disposition, both of which radiate with a wonderful sense of humor as she joyfully greets the world….her presence will always be a blessing gratefully acknowledged by her family, by her friends, and by all whose lives she touches. All bear witness to her Faith through the Love that she unfailingly gives each day of her life.

ABOUT CHARACTER...

DIANNA HUTSON

ABOUT CHARACTER....

"What doesn't kill you makes you stronger...."

Words of Wisdom from Dianna Sue Stump Hutson...

The defining moments of Harold D. Stump's life are each a personal memory for the Stump family and each remembrance is a source of pride for all who knew Harold's enormous strength of character and unwavering sense of responsibility. While many in this life give only lip service to their concern for the plight of the homeless, the disenfranchised, and the lonely, Harold matched his public, professional commitment as a child advocate who protected the welfare of children with a personal commitment to one lovely, charismatic ten-year-old little girl in the winter of 1960....her name was **Dianna,** and she brought joy and happiness to her adopted father for thirty-three years until his death in 1993.

As of this writing in 2012, Dianna Sue Stump Hutson is the mother of four adult children (Ryan, Michelle, Angela, and Seth), the grandmother of seven (Gabriel, Eliana, Luke, Rachel, Emily, Audrey, and Kylie), and a registered nurse who works in the obstetrics ward of the County Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, even during her career being the nurse who gives the post-natal classes to the Hispanic women, a task that has forced Dianna to learn Spanish. All of these accomplishments are a testimony to her indomitable spirit, her innate practical outlook and common sense, and Harold's ability to nurture her strengths while protecting her weaknesses during the thirty-three years that he embraced her as his daughter. When Harold visited his future daughter for the first time at her home before her adoption, he noticed immediately that Dianna had taken the initiative to create a makeshift swing for the little ones, and he knew then that her heart was pure, that her sense of responsibility was strong, and that she was a true survivor in this life. Giving her his stability, his love, and his name would be an inevitability that he would forever welcome from that moment onward. With each tender retelling of the events defining Dianna's life prior to her adoption, Harold was always left close to tears and always deeply grateful for the gift of Dianna's presence in his life.

Guiding and directing any child who was sired by another man demands a father who understands that children need roots to bind them permanently to those values that are unchanging and that children need wings to experience the possibilities that dreaming affords us all. Harold's efforts to both anchor and to uplift Dianna's astute intellect and strong character were defining moments in his personal life which brought him intense fulfillment and great joy as Dianna's dad. Whether he and his adolescent girls were singing, "You Are My Sunshine," as they traveled in the car to the Saint James Restaurant for a dinner out or he was cleaning the fish that his middle-aged Dianna caught in her father's pond on Morningstar Road on a visit home, Harold was engaged in providing comfort, substance, and memories which could outlast any and all obstacles in her life's journey. Among his personal gifts to his younger daughter was imbuing her with his love of horses, and each morning for many years, Dianna and Harold would

dutifully rise before the sun and trudge to their pole barn behind the house to feed and to groom the two horses who were comfortable ensconced in their stalls. Preparing the horses with grueling workouts for upcoming horseshows was a regimen that they enjoyed together as they gathered the tack and perfected the outfits to showcase the horsemanship that came so naturally to Dianna's talents. Even after being without her dad for fourteen years, Dianna still clung to the familiar work ethic that she learned from her childhood with Harold as she cleared brush all day on south-Texas ranch and bred, trained, and cared for her Peruvian horses. Dianna's natural inner beauty, which Harold cultivated, is still matched by her outer beauty, a trait that has always been a source of pride for Harold and for her family as she can still toil tirelessly each day and then shower, French braid her hair, and polish her nails, emerging ultimately as though she stepped from the pages of **Vogue Magazine**.

As a tangible reminder of Harold's love, compassion, and guidance, Dianna's life continues to be a testimony to the power of the human equation in God's universe….she defined his life and was defined by him in ways that continue to inspire and invigorate her children and her grandchildren. With his death in 1993, Harold and Dianna's spirit became one, and now they both, through Dianna, continue to energize others, encouraging our dreams and yet anchoring out intentions to the rock of their characters until we all, by their examples, become better people.

ABOUT LEADERSHIP....

DONALD REED

ABOUT LEADERSHIP....

"The most difficult problem today is that we are willing to tolerate what we are not willing to stand against. This has rapidly created a culture with greatly degraded values and beliefs. This sifts down to the children. To solve this, I would encourage all of us who believe in what is right and good to be a voice before it is too late and we are not the America we once knew."

Words of Wisdom from Donald Smith Reed when responding to the question, "What do you think is the most difficult problem in the world today?"

Donald Reed is the embodiment of integrity. He speaks his mind about the weighty issues that face society with courage, with conviction, and with compassion. As an ordained minister of the United Methodist denomination, he and his wife, Vicki, also an ordained minister, have led congregations in Elkhart, Indiana and in Royal Center, Indiana, with Don currently the pastor at the United Methodist Church in New Albany, Indiana. Upon meeting Donald, all are strengthened by the impact of his words and by the sincerity with which he speaks about his faith and about the responsibility that we have to make our lives a living legacy for future generations. In spite of his own difficult circumstances as a youth, Don refuses to see himself as a victim but rather tasks others, as he tasks himself, to live responsibly without casting blame on the cruelties of fate for misfortunes, missteps, or missed opportunities. He realizes that the task of living responsibly often means imperfectly striving to make the world a better place for our children by transmitting the learned lessons from our own past to others. Don lives his life focused on a Power and a Purpose greater than himself; in his words, he "marries, buries, preaches, teaches, and administers the sacraments" to his flock, knowing that the common humanity which we all share makes us "brothers" under the skin.

As the only brother among nine sisters, Don's protectiveness toward his family is immediately noticed by even a casual observer. A search for his family when he was a young adult led to a reunion with his sister, Linda, as he appeared on her doorstep unexpectedly late one afternoon in 1970. With joy and with enthusiasm, Don has always welcomed the opportunities to be present at Smith sibling reunions where laughter and love always abound and onlookers are touched by the fellowship and fidelity of the clan as they sing together, make funny faces together, and reminisce about their past and present lives. Don truly cares **FOR** and not just **ABOUT** his sisters....with the gentle hand that a brother only reserves for those weaker and more vulnerable than himself, he helped his sister Dianna fasten the helmet that he insisted she wear while she rode with him on his Honda Goldwing motorcycle; with unbridled delight, he traveled to the Grand

Bahamas on a cruise with Dianna and Jenny in 2004; with determined efforts, Don visited Dianna's South Texas ranch in 2010 and chain sawed trees, cleared brush, and moved piles of debris from her property; with comforting prayers, he sheltered his sisters emotionally from the heart wrenching worry of Mary's illness as he attended to all of them while Mary was a patient after her surgery at Cleveland Clinic; with manly assertiveness, he willingly "runs interference" for each of them when they are facing unpleasant people, unpredictable events, and difficult choices; with compassionate grace, Don extended his hand of friendship to Dianna's sister, Carolyn, and her husband, Ken, in offering during a sweltering summer day to lift, transport, and rearrange items from their garage to their newly remodeled barn. Don deflects the hurtful circumstances in the lives of those he loves and in the lives of those to whom he ministers while carrying their burdens as if they were his own.

An adventurer by nature, Don knows that "Boldness has genius and power and magic in it…," whether we summon the courage to begin a different career, to return to school, or to pursue a new relationship, all of which Don accomplished during his adulthood. Leadership through example can test one's strength and resolve, but Don's life serves as a testimony that one's faith can conjure courage. Even Don's most casual conversations are themselves unlabeled prayers for peace, patience, and perseverance as he inspires others with his humility, with his honesty, and with his hopefulness. Energized by the courage of his convictions and by the beauty evident in his soul, one walks away from any encounter with Don knowing that they have witnessed one man's faith in God's universal love, a faith through which he lives, through which he leads, and through which he guides his family and his congregation to New Beginnings in their presents and in their futures.

ABOUT FAITH...

MARTHA BEARD

ABOUT FAITH....

"They're just 'Things...' "

Words of Wisdom from Martha Kagey Beard on May 13, 2006, the day that she sold all of her possessions as she and her husband put their affairs in order two months before her death on June 28, 2006.

Martha Kagey Beard remains the most peaceful, contented, and calm individual whom most people have ever met. Although her death at the age of 52 was premature and was devastating for her family, her grace and graciousness never failed her, even at the end of her life, as she remained focused on the welfare of those around her. Even when meeting Ken and Carolyn Olson for the first time during the auction to dispose of their earthly property and material possessions on May 13, 2006, she was interested in each of the Olsons and in what they had to say as she met their gazes with her own unblinking, smiling face. Although she remained seated in her chair with her supply of oxygen nearby, she joyfully managed her own fears and misgivings about the total restructuring of her life, a task that was necessary given the terminal nature of Martha's cancer. Martha was that rare person who remained totally comfortable "in her own skin" as she anticipated going to Niagara Falls in an RV with her husband, Ron, and buying another home for Ron with the proceeds from the auction. For those whose paths crossed hers that day, being close to her brought an immense feeling of comfort as her very presence radiated an overwhelming "peace that passes all understanding." All in attendance that day sensed that Martha already had one foot in Heaven and the other foot ready to lead those left behind to their own Otherworldly Paradise.

Martha's own saga as an adopted child was told charmingly to an appreciative audience on the day of Martha's funeral on July 2, 2006 by her sister, Ann. Ann related that on the day that Martha was taken to her new home by her adoptive mother, Alice, Martha was despondent and sat in Harold and Alice Kagey's car while Alice went into a store to buy Martha a doll to make her feel better. Ann then observed that she and Martha shared a bedroom and that Martha cried for days after she was brought to the Kagey home until Ann told Alice that her mother needed to do something so that "Martha would not cry." No one at the memorial service was more tickled that was Ann when she concluded her eulogy by saying that Martha always got more attention than she did until she finally asked her mother, "What Am I? ...Chopped Liver?" The impact of Martha's early life on the Kagey family was profoundly moving for all of the mourners that day as they too reflected on the amazing successes that Martha Kagey achieved as an adult with her work as an educator, with her devotion to her three children, Alicia, Tim, and Laura (two of whom were adopted), and with her active involvement in her community and church.

As Martha's health faltered during the last eight years of her life, her fervent wish was to again reconnect with the members of her biological family, a wish that was fulfilled on the first Sunday of May in 2006. The ten Smith children were reunited for the first time

in forty-six years on that day with a sister, Elaine (Cheryl), even coming from California to rejoin her siblings. During their day-long Celebration of Family, the Smith children sang hymns together, danced rock and roll, performed the "chicken dance," enjoyed line dancing, and harmonized the melody from Martha's favorite song from the group **Alabama**. When Martha finally succumbed to her illness two months later, her sisters and brother were comforted by their vision of Martha in heaven singing the song from **Alabama** that she loved so well, just as she had done on the day when they became a "family" once again.

On that day in May when they celebrated their union, each of the children shared memories, some pleasant and some deeply disturbing, of their lives together forty-six years ago and of their lives as they forged their individual paths in the homes of their adoptive families…two months later, the Circle of Life became apparent again during Martha's Celebration of Life Service on the day of her funeral. After the eulogies were delivered and the resulting tears had been wiped away, Martha's biological sister, Dianna Stump Hutson, introduced herself to Martha's adopted sister, Ann, as the daughter of Judge Harold Stump. A delighted Ann joyfully shared with Dianna how "honored" she was to meet Judge Stump's daughter because the judge had made it possible for her to adopt her own two children….Harold had located the needy children for Ann, and then he had arranged for the adoption.

With Martha's patient influence and her example of fine living through good works, Ann also embraced two adopted children, just as her sister, Martha, had done in her adult life; through both of these women's love for those less fortunate than themselves, Faith In The Goodness Within People was visible for all to see. God's handiwork was made flesh in the beautiful gift of Martha to this world…her peaceful nature continues to give comfort, sustaining her family with her legacy of service to others rather than with the self absorption that might have consumed a less Faithful Servant of the Lord.

A CELEBRATION OF FAMILY...

"THE GREAT THING ABOUT GETTING OLDER IS THAT YOU DON'T LOSE ALL THE OTHER AGES YOU'VE BEEN."

By Madeleine L'engle

REUNITED: SUMMER, 1999

REUNITED: SPRING, 2004

REUNITED: MAY, 2006

REUNITED: SUMMER, 2007

REUNITED: SUMMER, 2008

REUNITED: JULY, 2010

REUNITED: SEPTEMBER, 2011

REUNITED: JULY, 2012

JENNY, MARIE, DIANNA, MARY, DON, AND LINDA
2011

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WILL EVER WRITTEN:

It was found in the pockets of an old ragged coat belonging to an insane patient of the Chicago poorhouse. He had been a lawyer, and the will was written in a firm, clear hand on a few scraps of paper. So unusual was the will that it was read before the Chicago Bar Association, which ordered it probated, and it is now on the records of Cook County, Illinois.

**"I, Charles Lounsberry, being of sound and
Disposing mind and memory, do hereby make
And publish this, my last will and testament,
In order, as justly may be, to distribute my
Interest in the world among succeeding men."**

**"That part of my interest which is known in
Law and recognized in sheep-bound volumes
As my property being inconsiderable and
Non-account, I will make no disposition in
This, my will. My right to live, being but
A life estate, is not at my disposal, but these
Things excepted, all else in the world I now
Proceed to devise and bequeath."**

The Seven Bequests to future generations that were mentioned in Mr. Lounsberry's will are as follows:

ITEM #1:

I give to all good fathers and mothers, in trust for their children, all good little words of praise and encouragement, and all quaint pet names and endearments, and I charge said parents to use them justly, but generously, as the needs of their children shall require.

ITEM #2:

"I leave to children inclusively, but only for the term of childhood, all and every flower of the fields and blossoms of the woods with the right to play among them freely, according to the customs of children, warning them at the same time against thistles and thorns. And, I devise to children the banks of the brooks and the golden sands beneath the waters thereof, and odors of the willows that dip therein and the white clouds that float high over the giant trees.

And I leave to the children the long, long days to be merry in, in a thousands ways, and the night and the train of the Milky Way."

ITEM #3:

I devise to boys, jointly, all the useful idle fields and commons where ball may be played, all pleasant waters where one may swim, all snow clad hills where one may coast, and all streams and ponds where one may fish, or where grim winter comes, one may skate, to hold the same for the period of their boyhood. And all meadows with the clover blossoms and butterflies thereon; the woods and their appurtenances, the squirrels and the birds and the echoes and the streams' noises, and all the distant places which may be visited, together with the adventures there found. And I give to said boys each his own place at the fireside at night with all pictures that may be seen in the burning wood, to enjoy without let or hindrance or without any encumbrance of care.

ITEM #4:

To lovers, I devise their imaginary world, with whatever they may need, as the stars in the sky, the red roses by the wall, the bloom of the hawthorn, the sweet strains of music, and aught else they may desire to figure to each other the lastingness and beauty of their love.

ITEM #5:

To young men, jointly, I devise and bequeath all boisterous, inspiring sport of rivalry, and I give to them the disdain of weakness and undaunted confidence in their own strength. Though they are rude, I leave to them the power to make lasting friendship and of possessing companions, and to them exclusively, I give all merry songs and grave choruses to sing with lusty voices.

ITEM #6:

And to those who are no longer children or youth or lovers, I leave memory and bequeath to them the columns of the poems of Burns and Shakespeare and of other poets, if there be others, to the end that they may live the old days over again, freely and fully, without tithe or diminution.

ITEM #7:

To our loved ones with snow crowns, I bequeath the happiness of an old age, the love and gratitude of their children until they fall asleep.

This will of Mr. Charles Lounsberry was found in the personal effects of Judge Harold D. Stump upon Harold's death in June, 1993.

REUNITED: SUMMER, 1999

LINDA, MARIE, JENNY, DIANNA, MARY, DONNA,
AND DONALD

MARY, DON, LINDA, MARIE, JENNY, DIANNA,
AND MARTHA

REUNITED: SPRING, 2004

GRAND BAHAMA CRUISE: 2004

THE CRUISE SHIP

DIANNA AT GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND

DIANNA AND JENNY ON GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND

DIANNA AT GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND

DIANNA AND DON ON BEACH

REUNION: 2006

MARY AND JENNY PLAYING CARDS

MARY, JENNY, LINDA, AND DIANNA SANG FOUR PART HARMONY TO "WHISPERING HOPE," PLAYED CARDS, AND BABYSAT MARY'S GRANDSON, ETHAN

MARY, JENNY, AND LINDA PLAYING CARDS

BIG SISTER, LINDA

BIG SISTER, LINDA

ETHAN AND GRANDMOTHER MARY

ETHAN AND GRANDMOTHER MARY

MARY, JENNY, LINDA, AND DIANNA PLAYING CARDS

DIANNA AND "MOTHER HELEN GROGG"

MARY AND CAROLYN OLSON IN 2007

MARY AND LINDA IN 2007

LUNCH WITH THE GIRLS: 2008

"MOTHER HELEN GROGG," GOOD FRIEND DORIS KRAY, AND CAROLYN OLSON SEATED IN FRONT; MARY, AND DIANNA STANDING IN BACK OF GROUP

REUNITED: SUMMER, 2007

LINDA AND MARY

DIANNA AND CAROLYN

JENNY, DIANNA, MARY, AND LINDA

JENNY, DIANNA, MARY, CAROLYN, AND LINDA

REUNITED: SUMMER, 2008

MARY, DONNA, JENNY, AND LINDA

DON AND DIANNA

DON AND DIANNA

LINDA, DONNA, AND DIANNA

MARY, DONNA, AND SETH HUTSON

SETH HUTSON, LINDA, AND JENNY

MARY AND RON

MARY AND RON

STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT: JENNY, DIANNA, AND MARY; SEATED LEFT TO RIGHT: DONNA, LINDA, AND DON

REUNITED: JULY, 2010

DON, JENNY, MARIE, AND DIANNA

MARIE, JENNY, AND DIANNA

JENNY, DIANNA, MARY RHOADS, AND GABRIEL RHOADS

DIANNA AND SON RYAN RHOADS

LEFT TO RIGHT: APRIL, COURTNEY, CARRIE, ERIN, RYAN, AND GABRIEL

KYLIE BRANNAN, AUDREY BRANNAN, AND ELIANA RHOADS WITH DON AND FRANK IN BACKGROUND

DON, VICKI REED, AND RANDY PUTT

DIANNA AND GABRIEL RHOADS

ELIANA RHOADS AND EMILY BRANNAN

MARY, SETH HUTSON, AND DIANNA

STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT: HEATHER (MARIE'S DAUGHTER), ROBIN (MARIE'S DAUGHTER), COURTNEY (MARIE'S DAUGHTER), CARRIE (JENNY'S DAUGHTER), RYAN (DIANNA'S SON), ANGELA (DIANNA'S DAUGHTER)
SEATED LEFT TO RIGHT: CHAD (JENNY'S SON), CHERYL (DON'S DAUGHTER), ERIN (JENNY'S DAUGHTER), SETH (DIANNA'S SON), APRIL (JENNY'S DAUGHTER)

TOP ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT:
BRYCE LANE, CHRISTIAN LOER,
BRANDON LANE, MCKENNA LANE,
GABRIEL RHOADS, EMILY BRANNAN,
ELIANA RHOADS

MIDDLE ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT:
ISABELLE KEFFER, MAXWELL STONE,
ASHTON HERTENSTEIN, ANDREW PUTT,
MCKAYLA PUTT, GAVIN LANE, MICHAEL
HURST, AUDREY BRANNAN, KYLIE BRANNAN

BOTTOM ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT:
GABRIEL HERTENSTEIN, CORBIN,
LILY STONE

REUNITED: SEPTEMBER, 2011

JENNY, MARIE, DIANNA, MARY, DON, AND LINDA

MARY AND RONNY

MARY AND MARIE

MARIE, LINDA, JENNY, AND DON

MARIE, LINDA, DIANNA, AND DON

MARY AND MARIE

MARY, JENNY, DIANNA, AND "MOTHER HELEN GROGG"

STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT: JENNY, MARY, DIANNA, RON KING; SEATED: MARIE AND LINDA

REUNITED: JULY, 2012

STANDING: JENNY, MARY, DIANNA, RON KING
SEATED: MARIE AND LINDA

STANDING: JENNY, MARY, DIANNA, RON KING
SEATED: MARIE AND LINDA

MARIE, LINDA, JENNY, AND MARY

DIANNA AND LINDA

LINDA AND DIANNA

STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT: JENNY, CAROLYN OLSON, MARY, AND DIANNA; SEATED: MARIE AND LINDA

SILLY FACES: JENNY, CAROLYN OLSON, MARY, DIANNA; SEATED: MARIE AND LINDA